

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for University)

Sapporo University of Health Sciences



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Hokkaido, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2025	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2033)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Sapporo University of Health Sciences

Overview

Sapporo University of Health Sciences sets forth the educational philosophy of “fostering healthcare professionals with humanistic competencies at the core of education” under the founding spirit of “cultivating highly skilled professionals as human resources,” and aims to cultivate human resources who can contribute to society. The University formulated a three-year basic plan starting in AY2023 and President’s Vision 2024 in AY2024 with the aim of realizing its educational philosophy, and is working to reform its organizations under the president’s governance.

In terms of internal quality assurance, the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee plays a central role in operating the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, while the Planning and Management Meeting leads various tasks that include formulating basic plans and policies for the university management guidelines. The internal quality assurance system operates under the organizational structure that clarifies the authority of the University’s executives, including the president, as well as committees and other bodies to enable swift decision-making. The University has held trial joint meetings with student representatives, faculty and staff members since AY2023 to provide opportunities to gather and share opinions on teaching, learning, and student support, and established the IR Promotion Office in AY2024. These initiatives are expected to upgrade the internal quality assurance system.

Regarding the curricula, the University responds appropriately to social needs in Hokkaido, for example, by creating the first-class school nurse license course in the Department of Nursing, School of Health Sciences, in AY2025. The school and graduate school have established diploma and curriculum policies based on an educational philosophy with the concepts of food, nutrition, lifestyle, and health, and design appropriate curricula based on these policies.

To monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes, the school and graduate school establish assessment policies to specify evaluation cycles, targets, content, and other aspects, and use objective and subjective data for the learning outcomes stated in their diploma policies, with monitoring and evaluations reviewed by the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee.

Among the distinctive initiatives is Theory of Community-based Care I to IV, a

curriculum centered on interdisciplinary collaboration of nursing and nutrition. This program was introduced to the two departments as required joint subjects for all school years, and over a four-year period students study the health issues of local residents in connection with regional characteristics and learn ways to support them. It is highly commendable that this series of studies helps students understand the need for multidisciplinary cooperation in developing a community-based integrated care system as well as coordination and collaboration with stakeholders and local residents, while considering the roles played by professionals in different fields. The University also takes advantage of its distinctive features to conduct a broad range of industry-academia collaboration activities related to food and nutrition, contributing to regional development and health promotion for residents.

However, the Department of Nutrition in the School of Health Sciences has low rates of freshman and student quota fulfillment, resulting in declining fulfillment rates in the entire school. The graduate school has failed to fulfill the freshman student enrollment quota for two years since its establishment in AY2023. The Department of Nutrition decided to reduce the freshman enrollment quota starting in AY2025, while the Department of Nursing will cut its freshman enrollment quota from AY2026. The University is expected to make efforts to secure students and ensure appropriate quota management. The graduate school has no policy regarding faculty organization, and such a policy should be formulated to clarify its education and research specialization and the roles of its faculty organization.

The University is carrying out organizational reforms led by the president, and is on course to put in place a structure for supporting educational improvement initiatives, including establishing the IR Promotion Office. As for monitoring and evaluating the learning outcomes, data collection and analysis based on the assessment policy are advancing to full-scale implementation from the preparatory phase. These efforts are expected to make steady educational improvements.

In the years ahead, the University is expected to upgrade the internal quality assurance system, steadily improve educational activities, and advance its numerous distinctive initiatives, thereby progressing further.

Notable Strengths

Teaching and Learning

- Theory of Community-based Care I to IV, a joint course in the Department of Nursing

and the Department of Nutrition in the School of Health Sciences, is introduced to all school years as required subjects, and over a four-year period students explore issues by interviewing local residents to provide specific assistance. The course combines the features of the two departments related to people's health and lifestyles, and adopts practical approaches for students to consider the roles played by professionals in each field while engaging with the community. It is commendable that this learning effectively helps to achieve the learning outcomes set out in the educational purposes and goals.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are low at 0.86 in the entire School of Health Sciences and 0.66 in its Department of Nutrition. The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are also low at 0.85 in the entire School of Health Sciences and 0.65 in its Department of Nutrition. The school has decided to reduce the freshman enrollment cap to 40 from 80 in the Department of Nutrition starting in AY2025, and to cut the cap to 80 from 100 in the Department of Nursing from AY2026. These measures must be implemented in a way to ensure appropriate quota management.