

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

Tenshi College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Hokkaido, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2018	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2026)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Tenshi College

Overview

Tenshi College (hereafter, the College) was established based on the educational philosophy of “Per Caritatem Ad Veritatem (Through Charity to Truth),” and is comprised of the School of Nursing and Nutrition, the Graduate School of Nursing and Nutrition, and the Master of Midwifery (professional graduate school). To fulfill its purpose of “cultivating graduates who can contribute to the development of society,” the College actively engages in education and research focusing on nursing and nutrition as well as contribution activities for the city of Sapporo and other regions. In preparation to mark the 70th anniversary of the school’s incorporation in 2017, and the 20th anniversary of its charter as a college in 2020, the College designed the “Strategic Plan Outline (TP 7020)” in 2012 to trace its history and present future goals and action agenda. The College continues its efforts to draw up future visions that respond to social trends and educational needs while maintaining its educational philosophy. To advance its educational and research activities under these circumstances, the College has conducted several distinctive initiatives.

Specifically, to pursue education based on its educational philosophy, the College established the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences as an organization independent of its school; the department offers liberal and arts and science subjects with the aim to foster Christian humanistic perspectives and provide introductory education for specialized fields while promoting deeper understanding of the educational philosophy using the assembly known as the “Assembly Hour.” These initiatives are particularly notable. The College also actively participates in volunteer activities in the local community aimed at enhancing the health of local residents, with more distinctive efforts expected in the future.

There are several issues the College needs to address, however. First, as for the educational programs, some departments and graduate school courses lack adequate content descriptions of their curriculum design and implementation policies, and in terms of monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes, they fail to implement sufficient methods of measuring the learning outcomes stated in their degree award policies. The admission policy is not appropriately established in the graduate schools, with problems also found in student quota management. Moreover, faculty members are not provided with sufficient training opportunities for college administration, and both academic and

administrative staff members need to acquire greater knowledge to play a more responsible role in college administration.

In addition, the “Strategic Plan Outline (TP 7020)” states the objectives of implementing regular inspections and assessments of the College’s educational and research activities and developing a system aimed at initiating reforms, but serious problems are found in practice. With the Self-Study Committee positioned as an organization in charge of the internal quality assurance system, the Education and Research Council serves the role of implementing self-study activities, and the Tenshi College Board of Trustees’ Chief and Department Heads Meeting (TMG) plays a major role in supporting the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycles for the school and graduate schools despite TMG not being stipulated in the rules and regulations. This situation indicates that the organizational system for internal quality assurance is not fully established. The internal quality assurance system is partially effective in its functions, including reviewing the curricula based on the self-study results, but the College needs to clarify the policies and procedures for internal quality assurance to develop a more effective system.

In the coming years, the College should develop a more effective internal quality assurance system and make the functions more transparent for third parties to see the results. Through these efforts, the College is expected to address various issues for further development.

Notable Strengths

Mission and Purpose

- The “Assembly Hour” is introduced to deepen the understanding of oneself and others through interactions with friends and other people. With the aim of fostering student cooperation and independence based on the Catholic ethos, various programs are organized throughout the year to enhance the understanding of the school’s educational philosophy. Moreover, the College embraces diverse values in modern society while introducing themes addressed by students through student questionnaires to provide a broad sense of humanistic education, including improving communication skills. It is commendable that the College strives to instill students with Christian humanistic perspectives and its educational philosophy through the “Assembly Hour,” with efforts to advance the educational content contributing to students’ self-directed learning.

Educational and Research Structure

- The Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, established independently of the school and graduate schools, offers liberal arts and science subjects, including “ Introduction to Christianity,” “ Reading The Bible,” and “ Seminar on Christianity,” with the aim of teaching the humanities in terms of professional education as well as human understanding to cultivate people with well-rounded character traits based on Christian humanistic perspectives. These subjects also play a role in advancing to the specialized fields necessary to study nursing and nutrition. It is commendable that the College has established the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences to enhance its general education.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Outcome

- The basic concepts related to curriculum design and implementation are not specified in the curriculum design and implementation policies of the Department of Nutrition of the School of Nursing and Nutrition and the Division of Nutrition Management Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Nursing and Nutrition. This issue should be improved.
- The Department of Nutrition of the School of Nursing and Nutrition and the Graduate School of Nursing and Nutrition do not systematically examine the measurement of student learning outcomes. They use college-withdrawal rates, academic year repeat rates, and national exam pass rates to monitor and evaluate the outcomes, but it is difficult to describe the use of these indicators alone as sufficient in measuring the learning outcomes stated in their degree award policies. This issue should be improved based on college-wide investigations, with the learning outcomes effectively measured and the results reflected in improvements to educational content and methods.

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.32 in the

Graduate School of Nursing and Nutrition Master's Program and 0.40 in the Master of Midwifery (professional graduate school). These ratios should be improved with the graduate schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.

University Management and Finance

- The All College Staff Retreat is held to deepen the understanding of basic Christian teachings, but faculty members are not adequately provided with training opportunities for college administration. This issue should be improved with training opportunities provided for both administrative and academic staff members to enhance the knowledge and knowhow necessary for college management.

Recommendations

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Self-Study Committee is positioned as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance and implementing self-study activities, but with self-study also included in the review items of the Education and Research Council, the allocation of roles is not clarified. In terms of supporting the PDCA cycles for the school and graduate schools based on the self-study results, the Tenshi College Board of Trustees' Chief and Department Heads Meeting (TMG) plays a part despite no rules and regulations stipulating TMG, and the roles and authority among these organizations are not fully established under the internal quality assurance system. This situation must be corrected with the policies and procedures for internal quality assurance articulated and a more effective internal quality assurance system developed.

Student Enrollment

- The admission policy is not established for each course in the Graduate School of Nursing and Nutrition. This issue must be corrected with the policy defined and announced.