

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

Nagano College of Nursing



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Nagano, 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 Nagano College of Nursing

Overview

Nagano College of Nursing (hereafter, the College) founded by Nagano Prefecture aims to contribute to the promotion of public health and wellbeing through training practitioners capable of performing the social functions of nursing and imparting in-depth knowledge and skills in nursing care. To achieve this goal, the undergraduate and graduate schools of Nursing conduct education and research activities in line with the College's educational objectives to develop well-rounded students with broad perspectives, skills to contribute to society as a nursing care practitioner, and abilities to address various issues in the practice of nursing. In 2014 the College adopted a medium-term vision that sets out its objectives in four areas, including the enhancement of undergraduate education and the strengthening of graduate education, and carries out projects and programs consistent with this vision.

Based on these objectives, the College has improved its education by creating various courses in Liberal Arts and Nursing. The graduate school launches initiatives that take advantage of the characteristics of the College's rural location, such as the remote teaching system and the Satoyama and Remote Nursing program. Furthermore, the College places great importance on linking education to local community contribution activities. The International Research Center in Nursing Practice, to which all full-time faculty members belong as researchers, leads the activities that return the benefits of education and research to society across a broad range of areas, from career education for research and other nursing professions to social contribution and international exchange. In particular, the water exercise class for the elderly, a long-standing project conducted in connection with students' practical training, is a unique and commendable undertaking.

There are a number of issues the College needs to address, however. In terms of education, omissions were found in the curriculum design and implementation policies, and the evaluation criteria to measure and assess the student learning outcomes established in the degree award policy cannot be described as fully developed. Some issues were also identified in the efforts to create an environment supportive of education. For example, the College has assigned no network maintenance operator and conducts no staff development (SD) activities to develop the skills required in performing university administration duties, even though such training is essential given that the prefectural staff working at the College are periodically rotated from post to post. Furthermore, the

College cannot be described as having an effective internal quality assurance (IQA) system, by which the institution assures the quality of its education, research, and other activities and makes the necessary improvements. Although the College has designated the Evaluation Committee as the organization responsible for promoting IQA, it has not defined the scope of its authority, responsibilities, or its role in relation to the Faculty Council and other organizations.

Going forward the College needs to create an effective IQA system and develop policies for implementing activities consistent with its educational mission and purpose, and conduct systematic self-study based on those policies from an institution-wide perspective. These self-study results should be used as feedback to guide changes and improvements. The College is also expected to formulate strategies to achieve the stated medium-term vision and realize its educational mission through autonomous university administration.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The International Research Center in Nursing Practice was established with the goal of cultivating an international perspective, and all faculty members belong to the Center to ensure the practicality of the College's interdisciplinary research activities. Its international activities include hosting study tour groups and implementing exchange projects with overseas universities and institutions. Through its many years of operation, the Center has made a number of improvements, including the creation of a section dedicated to community contribution from a nursing care perspective, and conducts disease prevention and health promotion activities for local residents in an area with an aging population. In particular, the unique water exercise program for the elderly has continued to enroll a large number of participants over the years. This education activity that provides practical training opportunities for students is a commendable program closely attuned to the local community.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- The Graduate School of Nursing should clearly state the purpose of education and

research in the College's rules or other such regulations.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The College designates the Evaluation Committee as the lead organization of its IQA system, but the scope of its authority and responsibilities are not established in the college regulations, and the Evaluation Committee's role in relation to the Faculty Council and other organizations is unclear. The authority and functions of the three subcommittees serving under the Evaluation Committee, as well as their relationship with the Evaluation Committee, are also unclear. These inadequacies suggest the College does not have an effective IQA system in place. Furthermore, any problems raised in various committees during the period when the Evaluation Committee does not meet are deliberated on and addressed in the Faculty Council without waiting for the Evaluation Committee, indicating that the Evaluation Committee is not fulfilling its role of assisting the committees in implementing the PDCA cycle. Moreover, efforts to adopt policies and implement systematic self-study based on those policies are insufficient. These issues lead JUAA to conclude that the College needs to make improvements to ensure the Evaluation Committee takes a leadership role in management and quality assurance of the entire institution, including the undergraduate and graduate schools.

Educational Program and Outcome

- The curriculum design and implementation policies of the undergraduate and graduate schools should clearly state the basic principles of curriculum design and implementation.
- The undergraduate school measures student learning outcomes through practical training results, success rates of national examinations, and alumni survey results, and the graduate school through alumni survey results and thesis evaluation; however, these are not adequate criteria for effectively measuring and assessing the learning outcomes established in the degree award policy. The College should review the evaluation methods and criteria to ensure the learning outcomes established in the degree award policy are measured and assessed in an appropriate manner.

Education and Research Environment

- The College actively incorporates the internet into its activities not only to enhance student convenience in pursuing their studies, but also to provide living support services to people in remote areas through the “Satoyama telenursing system,” a tool independently developed by the College as part of its local community contribution project. In spite of such efforts, the College has failed to appoint staff (or a vendor) with expertise in network maintenance and needs to put in place network security arrangements as soon as possible.

University Management and Finance

- Since the administrative staff are prefectural government employees who routinely undergo job rotation, accumulating knowledge and experience has been a challenge. The College fails to implement SD activities to help their staff gain the skills and competencies necessary in performing university administration duties. This issue needs to be addressed.