

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

Nigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences

Overview

At the Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences, out of the five founding spirits of The Niigata Institute of Science and Technology, namely, integration of practical use and learning, fusion of mind and body, family as one, united beings, and coalescing ideals and reality, the spirit of integration of practical use and learning is highly regarded particularly. The University's mission is to nurture promising human resources and produce beneficial research results, based on the dignity of life and through education/research that links the two areas of pharmacy and life sciences. The Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences Vision aims for the realization of a healthy and independent society and contribution to people and the community. As for the medium- to long-term plan, the medium-term plan for the University was formulated within the medium-term plan (AY2020 to AY2024) of the Institute, and initiatives are being taken toward the enhancement of education and research activities.

The Regulations and Implementation Guidelines for Self-Study and Assessment were newly formulated in AY 2020 and the Management Council became the new entity responsible for internal quality assurance promotion. The University Assessment Office and the Self-Study and Assessment Committee play central roles in promoting internal quality assurance. That is, the Management Council formulates an improvement plan based on the results of self-study and external evaluation of the University and of the divisions, and the president reflects them into the annual plan of the medium-term plan according to the improvement policy. Divisions, as well as faculty and staff members, work toward improvement after self-study of their achievement level at the end of the year, and a system is in place for internal quality assurance where the PDCA cycle is used organically throughout the University and in each of the divisions. Nevertheless, this new structure has only just begun, and the JUAA hopes that the internal quality assurance system will be verified regularly to ensure its effective functioning going forward.

Concerning education, each undergraduate and graduate division is designing their curriculum with consideration for sequential and systematic learning, providing a curriculum tree and curriculum map so that learning outcomes can be easily attained based on the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and

implementation policy (curriculum policy). Moreover, efforts are being made to improve learning outcomes, by actively incorporating practical lesson types such as small group discussions and fieldwork. Particularly, with “Community Volunteering” and “Community Health Care” which are compulsory subjects for the Faculty of Pharmacy, students undergo community building to support the health and autonomy of residents by conducting health and autonomy seminars for nearby residents. Students not only cultivate presentation skills and attitude in listening but also a stance for learning to be able to respond to questions from residents. They are highly commendable as unique courses that embody the University’s mission. The Department of Life Sciences Business in the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences offers unique education fusing the humanities and sciences by linking agriculture, food/environment science with business/public policies. Learning outcomes are recognized and assessed using rubrics and other measures, with initiatives well underway.

The University is working on the business of creating brand name recognition for Niigata’s agricultural products as social cooperation and contribution, leveraging the University’s intellectual property. Seminars with a wide variety of content are held by the Educational Cooperation Promotion Center, such as high school and university collaboration seminars, university seminars at junior high and high schools, and junior high/high school/university collaboration seminars, with many participants in attendance each year. These initiatives contribute to human resources development in the region and are highly commendable.

However, there are several issues that should be improved. Undercapacity in the undergraduate program is a major issue, and the University should thoroughly implement student quota management. As risk currently exists for suspicion to arise concerning the procedure in place, from consultation to the investigation process, if a harassment case were to occur, the University should make improvements to clarify fairness.

Going forward, the JUAA hopes the University solves these issues by investing efforts in internal quality assurance and accelerates its numerous unique initiatives for further development.

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- In the Faculty of Pharmacy, health/autonomy seminars (course name: Community Volunteering and Learning the Health Status of Local Residents) are

conducted as interactive social cooperation education alongside residents in the community with the main theme being community building by students to support the health and autonomy of residents, in line with the degree award policy to support the health and autonomy of all people in the region. The fact that the course is compulsory for four years starting from the first year until students reach clinical practice is outstanding from the perspective of early exposure and continuity. It is also commendable from the perspective of teaching presentation skills and attitude in listening and for fostering the attitude of students toward autonomous, deep learning to be able to respond to questions from residents.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- As for industry–government–university collaboration in the field of agriculture and fisheries, developing sparkling *nigori* (cloudy) sake and retort packaging of regional cuisine dishes is leading to the development of products that will contribute to the added-value enhancement of Niigata’s agricultural products. Efforts are also underway for collaborative education through cooperation with local schools by conducting seminars with a wide array of content including experiments for junior high/high school students and teachers, such as with high school and university collaboration seminars, university seminars at junior high and high schools, and junior high/high school/university collaboration seminars, with several participants in attendance each year. Many initiatives are being promoted as above to bring policies related to social cooperation and contribution to fruition, and it is highly commendable that the University makes use of practical learning by involving students in parts of such regional collaborative activities.

Suggestions for Improvement

Student Support

- Concerning the response when a harassment case arises, the consultation provider must promptly report to the Chairman any case brought forth by someone seeking consultation according to Article 6, Paragraph 3 of the Niigata Institute of Science and Technology Regulations for Harassment Prevention. Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the same regulations stipulates that the Chairman must set up an investigative committee upon receiving a report if he/she so deems it necessary. Depending on the status of the case for which consultation was sought,

this leaves room for some uncertainty to arise. To show clear fairness, improvements should be made to the process from consultation to investigation so that a fair procedure is set up and properly carried out.

University Management and Finance

- Stipulations in regulations regarding some matters pertaining to university management are insufficient. The decision of who is to take over duties as acting president in the absence of the president is decided with deliberations among the Board of Trustees based on the Act of Endowment. Nevertheless, detailed stipulations regarding the person to act on behalf of the president in his/her absence have not been prepared, and rules for the decision-making process regarding hiring, promotion, and placement of administrative staff are also insufficient. Thus, this should be improved.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap for the past five years are low at 0.74 at the Faculty of Pharmacy, 0.89 at the Department of Applied Life Sciences in the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences, and 0.63 at the Department of Life Sciences Business in the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences. Furthermore, the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low in the undergraduate program overall at 0.76, 0.77 at the Faculty of Pharmacy, 0.82 at the Department of Applied Life Sciences in the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences, and 0.62 at the Department of Life Sciences Business in the Faculty of Applied Life Sciences. This should be corrected to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.