

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

**Niigata University of Rehabilitation**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2028)	

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Niigata University of Rehabilitation**

### **Overview**

The University was founded with the educational mission and purpose of “cultivating fully rounded individuals with noble ethics based on the spirit that ‘Be the crutch for supporting others’ hearts’ by developing rigorous and compassionate physicians of the highest caliber rooted in the Basic Act on Education and the School Education Act and contributing to the Japanese medical community”. In order to achieve that goal, the University created specialized undergraduate and graduate divisions in rehabilitation and related majors, enhanced education and research activities, and established mid- and long-term plans spanning from 2015 to 2025 involving “Local Contributions,” “Maintaining an Environment for Education and Research,” “Internationalism,” and “Organizational Preparation and Human Development.”

They established the University Steering Committee as the organization responsible for advancing the internal quality assurance system. This committee established specific policies and then each undergraduate division, graduate division, committee, and center implemented improvements based on those policies and conducted checks and reviews at the end of the academic year. However, the University must make improvements to this system because no regulation in the Faculty Council, the University Steering Committee, and Check and Assessment Committee describes any rights or roles associated with internal quality assurance and the systems and processes for internal quality assurance have not been clarified.

Regarding education, both the undergraduate and graduate schools have created degree award policies (diploma policies) and curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policies) that align with the University’s mission and purpose and have organized their curriculums appropriately. They also enact appropriate initiatives like limiting class size, promoting self-study using ICT, and arranging for Teaching Assistants (hereafter “TA”s). The University is currently considering a review of the assessment policy for how it measures learning outcomes listed in degree award policies and it is hoped that future learning outcomes will be assessed appropriately based on that review.

As Northern Niigata’s only specialized training and educational organization, the way the University actively expands opportunities for regional and industry-academia collaborations in the area is highly valued and in addition to the high expectations placed

upon them, they are incorporated into lessons and so affect education significantly.

However, there are several issues that should be addressed. First, the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences does not present the basic ideas on curriculum implementation in the curriculum design and implementation policy, and this must be improved. Also, the ratio of the student body to the enrollment cap and the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the last five years in the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences is low and so the University should significantly improve quota management in undergraduate divisions.

We expect the University to develop even further in the future by using internal quality assurance initiatives to resolve the above issues, contribute to the region by engaging in activities that fully utilize the unique regional characteristics of the University, and continue to educate students based on its founding spirit.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- As the only specialized training and educational organization in Northern Niigata, the University actively expands opportunities for regional and industry-academia collaborations. Specifically, it contributes to regional development through rehabilitative education and research such as the Muscle Retention Workshop (Anti-atrophy Workshop), sends teachers and student volunteers out to events in Murakami, Sekikawa, and Awashimaura with whom they have Comprehensive Partnership Agreements, creates preventative care partnerships, assists elementary school students with field trips, provides hands-on classes to high school students, and dispatches teachers to various meetings and committees throughout Murakami. The local community benefits from these initiatives and in addition to the high expectations placed upon them, student volunteering is incorporated into Core Seminar II, creating substantial educational effects. In 2020, the University enacted a plan to improve functionality by implementing a system that divides duties between two organizations, the Regional Cooperation Promotion Office and the Mental and Physical Health Promotion Research Center. It is highly commendable that the University actively engages in community-based social cooperation and contribution activities through these actions.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- The University's internal quality assurance system generally functions effectively, but no regulation in the Faculty Council, the University Steering Committee, and the Check and Assessment Committee describes any rights or roles associated with internal quality assurance and the systems and processes for internal quality assurance have not been clarified. Also, the University does not conduct checks and reviews on the appropriateness of internal quality assurance and has not created a system that leads to improvements and refinements, and these must be improved.

### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences does not present the basic ideas on curriculum implementation in the curriculum design and implementation policy, and this must be improved.

### *University Management and Finance*

- The ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund is low and the ratio of carried over expenditures for next year to imputed income is increasing. Therefore, the University has not adequately established the financial base necessary for implementing education and research activities. In addition to the current income and expenditure funding plan for improving the state of finances, the University must create a financial plan for income and expenditures related to business activities and undertake initiatives towards creating a financial base with specific numerical targets.

## **Recommendation**

### *Student Enrollment*

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap and the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the last five years in the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences have been low at 0.79 and 0.78, respectively, and the University should make significant improvements in faculty quota management.