

Accreditation Results
(Accreditation Results for School of Dental Education)

The Nippon Dental University,
School of Life Dentistry at Niigata, Department of Life Dentistry



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

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for the Nippon Dental University, School of Life Dentistry at Niigata,
Department of Life Dentistry

Based on the Nippon Dental University's founding spirit of "independence and self-reliance," its purpose of "developing dentists with knowledge, skills, and noble values," and its educational mission "to provide broad-based educational opportunities while simultaneously carrying out specialized research into, and providing medical knowledge of, the teeth, the jaw, and the mouth, based on a proper development of intellectual, moral, and practical capabilities," and thereby "contribute to the development and well-being of human culture and assist in the creation of a healthy citizenry," the Nippon Dental University, School of Life Dentistry at Niigata, Department of Life Dentistry, has defined its goal of developing "not just dentists who provide effective dental care autonomously, but medical practitioners who help improve public health by contributing to an extensive range of dental care services, including community dental care and social welfare medical care." The School aims to achieve this by "providing opportunities for students to acquire knowledge, skills, and ethical values related to life dentistry through the study of life and the medical treatment of life forms." Under this goal, the School trains dentists with the ability to constantly respond to life and the social demand.

To achieve the above goal, the School offers a sequential curriculum consisting of eight categories of courses that students take according to their level. A notable feature of the education program is the use of Learning Through Discussion (LTD) and other active learning approaches from their early years of study. The LTD method is fused with Problem-based Learning (PBL) to create LTD-based PBL, a learning model that improves problem-solving skills based on logical thinking, develops a scientifically inquisitive mind, and in turn fosters a research mindset. With respect to lectures, it is highly commendable that the School assures the quality of teaching by requiring first-time teachers to give mock lectures before instructing actual classes.

The School offers a patient care clinical practice course in two terms: the first term runs from April to early December, and the second from mid-December to early March. In this course, students participate in home visit clinical practice under the supervision of dentists belonging to Domiciliary Dental Care. These practice sessions are arranged through Niigata Hospital or Home Dental Care Niigata Clinic, a

dedicated home visit dental practice located in central Niigata Prefecture (in the Tsubame Sanjo area). The course also offers field training opportunities where students visit nursery schools, kindergartens, municipal health centers, and care homes. The clinical training is an effective learning opportunity for students to experience firsthand the variety of cases dentists are exposed to in real life or the problems faced by communities. It is also commendable that the School helps its teaching staff improve their skills and abilities through creative efforts to encourage self-evaluation.

There are areas for improvement identified by the certified evaluation and accreditation, however.

First, although the School offers a point of contact for students to inquire about their grades, there is no grade inquiry system in place. To ensure a fair and robust grading process, the School should stipulate in writing the grade appeal process and ensure it is made known to all concerned. Second, the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment capacity is low due to the rising number of early drop outs, among other factors. The ratio improved in AY2022, but the School continues to face the issue of declining enrollment, as shown by the low five-year average ratio of new student enrollment to the enrollment target.

To address the issues identified, the School is advised to conduct improvements based on the results of the certified evaluation and accreditation for schools of dentistry, continue with its self-study efforts to enhance the quality of its dentistry education (bachelor's program), and further develop the distinctive features of its education program.