

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

Niigata College of Nursing



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Niigata College of Nursing

Overview

The Niigata College of Nursing (hereafter, the College) was established by Niigata Prefecture in 2002 as a nursing college based on its founding spirit of “Yu-yu Kurashi Zukuri (Comfortable Lifestyle).” The Graduate School of Nursing (master’s program) was launched in 2006, and after incorporation as a public university corporation in 2013, the College conducts education and research activities with a view to “exploring nursing science rooted in the local community.”

Following the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation’s (current National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education) University Accreditation in FY2010, the College has responded to NIAD-QE’s remarks on the low transfer rate for third-year students in the degree program and low quota fulfillment in the master’s program, and carried out improvements, for example, actively promoting public relations activities for medical institutions and revising its entrance examination system.

It is highly commendable that the College has undertaken distinctive initiatives, such as developing a sustainable student support structure that utilizes a room teacher system, and providing its students with comprehensive support by actively gathering information on their needs through discussions and other activities to understand their current situations. The College also promotes its own social cooperation and contribution projects in response to local needs, with the Niigata Research Institute of Nursing serving as a liaison, to actively return the research outcomes to the local community.

On the other hand, challenges to be addressed include inconsistent syllabus content in both undergraduate and graduate schools, and insufficient opportunities for the graduate school to conduct systematic training and studies aimed at improving educational content and methods. In addition, self-study is not properly managed, with the roles of the organizations in charge, namely the Corporate Working and the Governing Council, not explicitly assigned. Improvements are expected to be made by developing a system for properly implementing self-study.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- The College's room teacher system for each academic year, with two supervisory teachers appointed to each year for first- to third-year students and a graduation research supervisor for fourth-year students, plays a specific support role as the first contact providing students with easy access to advice and consultation. In addition, the College conducts questionnaires on mental and physical health for all students, surveys on campus life, and opinion exchanges between student representatives and academic/administrative staff members. It is commendable that the College makes systematic efforts to actively gather information on students' needs to understand their current situations and to share and review this information with its academic/administrative staff members through the Student Pastoral Care Team Meeting. These efforts have led to improvements in the College's learning environment, including extended study room hours and low rates of temporary withdrawals and dropouts.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the Niigata Research Institute of Nursing has made college-wide efforts to launch various programs in response to community needs, such as lectures offered for the public, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and to promote education and research in cooperation with external organizations. Above all, visiting lecture services are growing in popularity, with an increasing number of requests and events, and serve as a major pillar of the College's community contribution activities. In addition, the Community-based Research Section, in which the College's academic staff members and nursing staff working for local medical institutions conduct joint research to meet regional challenges, contributes to encouraging nursing studies and enhancing nursing quality at nursing worksites in Niigata Prefecture. In these ways, in pursuing its founding spirit, the College is actively returning its research outcomes to the local community.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The syllabuses in the School of Nursing and the Graduate School of Nursing are created in a unified format, but the content of the evaluation methods and standards is inadequately described in some subjects. This situation should be improved.
- The Graduate School of Nursing does not provide the opportunity to conduct systematic training and research aimed at improving its educational content and methods. This situation should be improved.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The College operates the self-study system by assigning comprehensive self-study to the Corporate Working, and inspection and verification to the Governing Council. But the role of the Governing Council is not explicitly defined, and there are no exact ways of confirming the Governing Council's inspection and verifying the self-study conducted by the Corporate Working. In the coming years, improvements should be made to properly operate the self-study system by specifying the roles of both organizations and the self-study process.