



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/41

DECREE N 41

15 January 2021

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITY OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	"Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia" state non-profit organization /CMSA of RA MES/
Official Address:	1 38a Marshal Babajanyan St, Yerevan, Republic of Arme
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	don't have

Guided by the regulation on the "State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs" approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011; by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on the "Approval of RA Standards for Professional Education Accreditation"; by the procedure on the "Formation and Functioning of the Accreditation Committee of the 'National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance' Foundation (hereinafter referred to as ANQA)" as well as by the regulation on the "Formation of the Expert Panel of ANQA", the ANQA Accreditation Committee discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of the University of Traditional Medicine (hereinafter referred to as UTM) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on 15 January 2021.

Having examined the University of Traditional Medicine's self-evaluation, remarks and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, the UTM's action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the College which were made by the three members selected by the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and UTM's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

Submission of application:	27 December 2018
Submission of self-evaluation of the HEI:	8 May 2019
Site-visit by the expert panel:	16-19 September 2019
Submission of expert panel report:	27 December 2019
Submission of action plan on the	20 January 2020

The UTM's expertise was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the regulation on the "Formation of the Expert Panel of the ANQA". The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, four of them – **"Governance and Administration"**, **"Academic Programmes"**, **"Research and Development"** and **"Internal Quality Assurance System"** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

While carrying out the evaluation, the expert panel took into consideration the University's position in the educational market and its mission which is "The University of Traditional Medicine is a leading school of medical education, medical science and health care, which activity is aimed at training who are aware of their role in a physician-patient relationship, with a high level of morality, in accordance with the requirements of the labor market, unique and unprecedented for national and regional medical education." Since 2015, the UTM has changed the education and employment markets it serves, targeting the recruitment of international students. Currently the vast majority of students (80%) at the University are international students.

The UTM is in transition period.

1. The University continuously improves the infrastructure, material and technical equipment, improving the teaching-learning environment. From the point of view of quality assurance, the process of development, implementation, monitoring and revision of academic programmes – which become more systematic in recent years – is more risky. Although the academic programmes were revised, benchmarking was carried out, the training programmes were sent for external review, and the evaluation system was revised, there are no outcome-based approaches and outcome-method-evaluation-logical connection both in general academic programmes and curricula. Academic programmes have few number of courses aimed at the development of research skills; the close connection between the research activity and the learning process is not clear. Having a predominant proportion of foreign students (80%), the HEI did not conduct an analysis of the needs of the targeted international stakeholders; representatives of the international labor market were not involved in the revision process, as well as the experience of other European countries was not studied. Taking into consideration the UTM's peculiarities and ambitions, the academic programmes developed should guarantee international career opportunities. The process of recruiting faculty of UTM provides an opportunity to attract lecturers and supporting staff — who have practical experience of the field and knowledge of English — and with which both local and international students are satisfied. It is positive that the UTM involves its graduates in the learning process.

Students are able to successfully continue their studies in other universities in order to receive higher education.

In terms of credible award of qualifications, the University has trends for progress and examples, but there are still problems and risks.

2. Situational management is carried out in the TLI; decisions are mainly made by the Board of Trustees; no external stakeholders are involved in the various governing councils of the TLI; the human and financial resources planning of the TLI in a number of fields (science) does not meet the goals set by the Strategic Plan. No risk evaluation is carried out; the effectiveness of the management system is

not evaluated; and there is no systematic analysis of the external environment. The PDCA cycle in the field of management is at the stage of planning and implementation stages in almost all fields. The internal quality assurance system is still at the stage of introduction; the document base was developed in 2017-2018; their effectiveness has not been evaluated yet.

In general, it can be concluded that **there are trends for development, and management is aimed at quality enhancement, credible award of qualifications, but result-based management and quality assurance systems are in the process of development.**

3. Internationalization and research /creative activities do not yet sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications. The internationalization of the HEI is limited to the involvement of international students and English teaching, the internationalization of the content of education, methods, management, as well as research which will contribute to the sustainable development of the HEI, continuous enhancement of quality, ensurance of international competitiveness of graduates, credibility of academic programmes beyond the borders of Armenia — is not ensured. There are open incentive mechanisms for planning research activities: the HEI has a certain research resources (teaching staff, STMS), which, however, is not used effectively due to the lack of policy. The teaching staff and students are less involved in research. Research is limited to the initiatives of individual lecturers. It is necessary to conduct more targeted planning as well as provide financial and material-technical resources for research and development.

Internationalization and research do not sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert report are have a key role in terms of credible award of qualifications, at the meantime the bases improvement are laid.

5. The implementation of most of the plan for elimination of shortcomings in the expert report submitted by the UTM does not contain risks. Achievement of the results defined by the Plan can contribute to the solution of existing problems in various aspects of the University's activities, guaranteeing the sustainable progress of the institution.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the “University of Traditional Medicine” PC for 2 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the revised action plan on the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months taking into account:
 - a) the urgent need to give solutions primarily to the problems existing in the fields of **“Governance and Administration”, “Faculty and Staff”, "Research and Development", and "Internal Quality Assurance System"**;
 - b) the requirement to have quantitative and qualitative indicators for the evaluation of progress and effectiveness of UTM's ongoing processes;
 - c) the necessity to clarify the deadlines set for implementation and evaluation of the processes, by the UTM, responsible persons, the amount of envisaged financial resources;
 - d) the international expert's peer-review results regarding the UTM's ambitions to be integrated into the European Higher Education Area.
3. To pay special attention to:

- a) the reinforcement of the practical component in academic programmes by emphasizing the acquisition of research-practical skills;
 - b) the establishment of stable partnerships with medical institutions,
 - c) the study of the needs of the international labour market, in terms of ensuring compliance with international medical standards; ensurance of the stability of the teaching staff;
 - d) the reinforcement of the link between learning and research;
 - e) the training of the teaching staff and enhancement of professional skills;
 - f) the students' participation in research works.
4. In accordance with the requirements set by the Clause 12 of the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs”, every 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of improvement of the Academy's activity, innovations and achievements.
 5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the UTM's activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

15 January 2021

Yerevan