



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2024/108

DECREE N 108

April 27, 2024

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
GAVAR STATE MEDICAL COLLEGE**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Gavar State Medical College SNPO
Official Address: 91/1 Nalbandyan St., Gegharkunik province, Gavar, RA
Previous Accreditation **Not available**
decision and date:

Guided by the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of June 30, 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of June 30, 2011 on the Approval of Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation 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 ANQA’s Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Gavar State Medical College (hereinafter referred to as “GSMC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on April 27, 2024.

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

Submission of application: 11 January, 2023
Submission of the self-evaluation: May 5, 2023
Site visit by the expert panel: September 25–28, 2023
Submission of the expert panel report: November 30, 2023

The external review of the GSMC's institutional capacities 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. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, "**Governance and Administration**" and "**Academic Programmes**" were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the GSMC's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the three members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the GSMC's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The GSMC generally ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The GSMC implements secondary vocational medical academic programmes (APs) at level 5 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The AP outcomes are not well-defined and do not fully reflect the achievement of learning outcomes set by the state academic standards. The GSMC has not adapted the APs in response to an analysis of the labour market's needs. The TLI regularly reviews the methods and assessment criteria used in its APs. However, these are not yet unified and institutional. The GSMC's policy for the AP benchmarking and localisation of best practices is not effective. The developed mechanisms do not support the policy implementation. The use of established tools for monitoring and further enhancement does not lead to the continuous improvement of programmes and the formation of outcomes based on the needs of the labour market.

The GSMC makes continuous efforts to ensure the credibility of the qualifications awarded, attracting qualified teaching staff. The TLI has a policy for the selection of the teaching staff. It is continuously replenished with employers from the practical field. The GSMC introduces mechanisms to promote the sustainability and rejuvenation of the teaching staff. The TLI also

carries out regular evaluation of the teaching staff's activities and holds internal events to disseminate best practices.

The GSMC has sufficient administrative and supporting staff to support the educational process.

The TLI generally has the necessary material-technical resources for the implementation of the APs. Through its financial resources, the GSMC tries to continuously develop the infrastructure and resources. The GSMC fully leverages its own resources and those of partner dental clinics and pharmacies, which are available to students for both practical classes and internships.

The GSMC creates a safe environment through health and safety processes. The TLI has introduced some tools for quality assurance and the evaluation of the resource use. The processes for document circulation are regulated.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems are at the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and the governance is aimed at quality enhancement.

The GSMC's activities align with the defined mission. The stakeholders share the TLI's vision and attach importance to its role in the preparation of specialists in line with the needs of the regional medical institutions and pharmaceutical companies. Since the previous strategic cycle, mechanisms for strategic planning have been improved.

The GSMC does not implement strategic management based on the KPIs. The management system's vertical and horizontal operational links are not fully effective. The top-down and bottom-up accountability processes are inadequate. There is a gap between strategic and short-term planning processes. The AP management and responsibilities are not distributed in a balanced manner.

The GSMC does not have stable mechanisms and systems of data collection. However, the collected data is not generally used as a basis for the governance decisions.

A quality assurance culture is at the stage of formation. The GSMC has carried out significant activities to embed a quality assurance system, leading to the development and introduction of the necessary regulatory documents. The Quality Assurance Centre has developed a Quality Assurance Policy.

Human and material resources have been allocated for the implementation of the quality assurance processes. The GSMC has some tools for the identification of stakeholder needs. The TLI has formed some mechanisms for data collection and analysis, which support the continuous enhancement of its areas of activity. The TLI strives to ensure the availability of information on the quality assurance processes among stakeholders.

3. Internationalisation and research activities have development trends and support the credible award of qualifications.

The GSMC carries out systematic activities to raise awareness of student recruitment and admissions, engaging various stakeholders. The implemented processes have contributed to a stable influx of students and a dynamic growth in the number of applicants. The employers are also actively involved in this process, presenting the attractiveness of the professions and the staff demand in the labour market during recruitment stages and meetings with applicants.

There are some mechanisms for the identification of educational needs. The teaching and administrative staff offer students recommendations and support. The career guidance services are available as well. The students are given creative and analytical assignments. The GSMC has some mechanisms for the evaluation of student services.

The GSMC has regulated the procedures for research activities. The TLI has aligned the research implementation with the peculiarities of medical education. To regulate research processes, since 2023 the GSMC has developed and implemented a research guide, which clarifies the types of research and extracurricular activities, sets the criteria and requirements for individual and group research activities, and provides an exemplary plan for conducting research.

The students follow the guide requirements for their research activities. The teachers support students in the implementation of analytical individual and group works. The student assignments contribute to the development of analytical and research skills. There are mechanisms for the link between the educational process and research activities.

The GSMC regulates accountability processes, develops tools to ensure transparency and public access to the processes. The TLI has some feedback mechanisms. The TLI also implements measures to impart knowledge and values to society.

The TLI cooperates with medical institutions and pharmaceutical organisations in the region and jointly uses their resources.

Despite its lack of experience in internationalisation, the GSMC actively cooperates with the offices of international organisations in the Republic of Armenia (United States Agency for International Development, Save the Children, World Vision), providing courses, trainings, and various initiatives.

4. There are shortcomings that do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is realistic and its implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Gavar State Medical College SNPO for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months, taking into account the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of **“Governance and Administration”** and **“Academic Programmes”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the clarification of the TLI's mission, consolidating the three presented missions into one unified whole;
 - b) the clarification of qualitative and quantitative KPIs for each goal and mechanisms for evaluating their effectiveness;
 - c) the enhancement of mechanisms for identifying students' educational needs;
 - d) the introduction of mechanisms for the planning and ensurance of the teaching staff's professional progress;
 - e) the definition of the TLI's research aspirations and interests of the chairs;

- f) the improvement of data collection and processing;
 - g) the enhancement of foreign language proficiency among teachers and students;
 - h) the need for mechanisms and tools to study international practice and forge cooperation;
 - i) the need to introduce mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of information provision, accessibility, transparency and feedback;
 - j) the coordination of quality assurance mechanisms, regulating their implementation frequency.
4. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the TLI's activity, innovations and achievements.
5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

April 27, 2024

Yerevan