



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2023/89

DECREE N 89

October 16, 2023

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GYUMRI "PROGRESS" UNIVERSITY

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Medical College of Gyumri "Progress" University

Official Address: 1 Tigran Metsi St. and 40a Khrimyan Hayriki St., Gyumri
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 Medical College of Gyumri "Progress" University (hereinafter referred to as “MCGPU”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on October 16, 2023.

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

Submission of application: May 19, 2022

Submission of the revised self-evaluation: 21 November, 2022

Site visit by the expert panel: February 20–23, 2023

Submission of the expert panel report: May 23, 2023

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan June 26, 2023

The external review of the MCGPU'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”**, **“Academic Programmes”**, **“Research and Development”** and **“Internal Quality Assurance”** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the MCGPU'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 MCGPU's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. There are some problems in terms of the credible award of qualifications. However, there are also trends and examples of development.

The MCGPU's education is based on the state academic standards. In 2022, the institution switched to modular programmes.

The MCGPU has certain issues in the development, implementation, monitoring and quality assurance of outcome-driven academic programmes (AP). There is almost no documentation to regulate the aforementioned processes and form the basis for their conduct. The development of outcome-driven APs is still in its early stages.

Employers are not directly involved in the Aps' design and review. There is no policy for the selection of teaching and learning methods.

The teachers' qualifications align with the courses they teach. The teaching staff is generally stable. Teachers with practical experience and employers take part in the teaching process. Mechanisms have been introduced for the rejuvenation of the teaching staff, resulting in a growing number of

young teachers in recent years. Novice teachers receive support. There are cases of career progression. The MCGPU has sufficient administrative, teaching and supporting staffs for the implementation of the educational process.

The MCGPU has the necessary material and financial resources to ensure a learning environment. Financial resources have significantly increased over the past year. The allocation of these funds has been established. The TLI is provided with premises, classrooms, and laboratories to facilitate theoretical teaching. Practical skills development aligned with the AP outcomes is supported through the joint use of employer resources in the medical centre, pharmacies and a dental laboratory.

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 and credible award of qualifications.

The MCGPU is a structural unit of the Progress University of Gyumri (PUG). As a separate unit, the TLI faces challenges with its establishment. It is closely intertwined with the PUG. The MCGPU's mission is considered part of the PUG's mission, which is very broad and does not encompass the scope of secondary vocational education. The TLI's goals, objectives and intended outcomes are not well-defined.

The MCGPU is governed by the PUG's rector. The TLI has not established an organisational structure so far. Its functions are divided and are completely intertwined with the PUG's ongoing activities. The MCGPU's activities are governed by the PUG's regulations, which do not specify the peculiarities of the institution's operation. However, the TLI's educational processes generally correspond to level 5 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The MCGPU has attracted international students, offering education in professions that are currently sought-after in the global market. However, there are issues in terms of quality assurance and stability.

Attempts have been made to embed quality assurance processes since 2012. However, there are no defined plans. The functions of the head of the Quality Assurance Department are unclear and the relevant tools are not in place. Although the MCGPU's stakeholders take part in educational

processes, they are not involved in the quality assurance processes. The TLI needs to develop and implement data collection mechanisms.

3. Internationalisation and research activities do not sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications.

The MCGPU has mechanisms for student recruitment. Foreign students have also been admitted over the past year.

Students are free to reach out to the administrative staff. Course supervisors play a key role in the identification of students' educational needs.

There are some student counseling services. The students have the opportunity to enhance their practical skills, spending additional time in educational facilities.

There is a body for the protection of students' interests and rights, the Student Council, which has also included foreign students over the past year. Student discounts are available.

The MCGPU has not defined its research goals and objectives. There are no short- and long-term plans. The work plans do not include assignments with a research component. The requirements for their implementation and assessment criteria have not been defined. There is no link between the educational and research processes.

The MCGPU carries out certain processes for the ensurance of external accountability. Some mechanisms have been introduced to ensure external and internal accountability. The MCGPU has an official website and a Facebook page. The TLI provides feedback opportunities.

The MCGPU primarily establishes connections with regional employers, aimed at education quality assurance and development of students' practical skills. The TLI collaborates with leading regional organisations to offer internships and practical courses.

4. The shortcomings 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 positive enhancements.

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

DECIDED

1. To award conditional institutional accreditation to the Medical College of Gyumri "Progress" University for 2 /two/ 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"** **"Academic Programmes"**, **"Research and Development"** and **"Internal Quality Assurance"**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the need to develop a new Strategic Plan, clearly defining the TLI's mission, goals and vision;
 - b) the development and implementation of risk assessment mechanisms for the execution of the new Strategic Plan;
 - c) the need for clear and measurable qualitative and quantitative KPIs to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented processes;
 - d) the introduction of feasible mechanisms for the identification of students' educational needs;
 - e) the improvement of students' career support services, helping them navigate the labour market;
 - f) the teaching process aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical thinking skills;
 - g) the recruitment of the English language teachers, applying a competitive process for the teacher selection;
 - h) the delivery of professional and pedagogical trainings for teachers;
 - i) the implementation of clear mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of the teaching staff;
 - j) the ensurance of a link between research and educational processes, the formation of practical skills;

- k) the formation and continuous development of a quality culture, implementation of the PDCA cycle in all processes.
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 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to 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 ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the TLI's activities.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

October 25, 2023

Yerevan