



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2024/100

DECREE N 100

March 26, 2024

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

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Vanadzor State Medical College SNCO
Official Address: 8 Tevosyan St., Lori province, Vanadzor, 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 Vanadzor State Medical College SNCO (hereinafter referred to as “VSMC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on February 15, 2024.

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

Submission of application: January 16, 2023
Submission of the self-evaluation: May 10, 2023
Site visit by the expert panel: October 31- November 3, 2023
Submission of the expert panel report: January 12, 2024

The external review of the VSMC'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, "**Research and Development**" was evaluated as unsatisfactory.

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

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

The Vanadzor State Medical College offers academic programmes (APs) aligned with its mission and the National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF). While implementing the APs, the VSMC is guided by the state academic standards. However, the APs lack specifications and outcomes.

The TLI uses assignments that develop students' analytical thinking and practical skills. There are certain mechanisms regulating the assessment process.

The student internships and part of the practical courses are conducted in the region's medical facilities, pharmacies, dental laboratories and cosmetology centres.

The teaching staff recruitment is carried out on a competitive basis. The VSMC is mainly comprised of necessary teaching staff and has a certain pool of teachers. However, two APs have an insufficient number of teachers for specific professional modules. The TLI faces a generational change issue due to the difficulties in attracting young employees.

The VSMC has certain mechanisms for the evaluation of the teaching staff's activities, needs and incentivisation.

The distinctions in salaries are set based on the academic degree and pedagogical experience.

The VSMC is equipped with the necessary resources, including educational and laboratory facilities, to effectively implement the APs. However, professional classrooms and laboratories need updates and replenishment of materials and equipment.

The TLI's Family Medicine Centre (polyclinic) is also used for educational purposes, with its professional offices facilitating the combination of the educational process with real-world practice. Additionally, students and teachers receive free medical care at the Centre.

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 VSMC prepares specialists with secondary vocational education for the healthcare sector, primarily to meet the healthcare needs of the province. Taking into consideration the stakeholder viewpoints, the TLI has developed strategic plans reflecting its mission and goals.

The VSMC's governance system enables stakeholders to participate in the formulation and implementation of the mission and goals.

The TLI has developed job descriptions that outline staff functions. Long-term and short-term plans are in place. Effective accountability system has been introduced.

The VSMC has embedded an internal quality assurance system based on accountability and allocated necessary human and material resources. To regulate quality assurance processes, the TLI has designed and introduced policies and procedures, as well as developed a Quality Assurance Manual.

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

The VSMC has mechanisms for students' admission and recruitment. To support applicants' professional orientation, the TLI's Career Centre has developed "Descriptors of professions taught at VSMC", which were posted on its Facebook page. The TLI has various mechanisms for the identification of students' educational needs. The Career Centre actively cooperates with employers and supports student employment.

The VSMC has not yet defined research interests and ambitions. There is a lack of clear policies and procedures for implementation. The incorporation of a research component in assignments is not widespread yet. Some research elements are included in students' individual works as part of specific modules. The TLI also has private examples of teachers' research activities.

The VSMC has set a regulation on external and internal accountability. The internal reports are prepared based on planned and implemented activities. However, not all reports contain an analytical component. They include quantitative data.

In its strategic plan 2023-2028, the TLI has planned a cooperation with local and international education institutions, as well as increase in foreign language proficiency among students and employees. However, the participation in international programmes is not enough. The TLI does not have a manager for external relations as well.

The VSMC cooperates with secondary vocational and higher education institutions, healthcare, pharmaceutical and non-governmental organisations, as well as cosmetology centers of the country. The TLI has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Haydas School in Paris, as part of which online French language courses are planned to be conducted.

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 Vanadzor State Medical College SNCO 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 field of **“Research and Development”**.

3. To pay special attention to:

- a) the alignment of short-term planning with strategic goals and objectives;
- b) the necessity of clear and measurable KPIs for evaluating the effectiveness of the processes;
- c) the development of specifications and expected outcomes for all APs;
- d) the improvement of the connection between the APs' outcomes, teaching and assessment methods;
- e) the revision of the list of elective modules;
- f) the introduction of mechanisms to develop students' creative and analytical skills;
- g) the need to introduce mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of information provision, access, transparency and feedback;
- h) the professional and pedagogical trainings for the teaching staff and ensurance of their periodicity;
- i) the increase in the level of foreign language proficiency among teachers and students;
- j) the coordination of quality assurance mechanisms, ensuring their regular implementation.

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 effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

March 26, 2024

Yerevan