

Toward programmatic self-assessment study for Nursing Department/Madenat Alelem University College (MAUC) 2024

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Abstract:

Following the recommendations of the Nursing School Accreditation Standards Workshop conducted in Baghdad in February 2023 with the full support of the National Accreditation Council for Nursing Schools (ACANC), we conducted this study with the aim of identifying linkages and gaps of ties between the existing nursing program in the Madenat Alelem university college compared to the approved national standards for accrediting nursing colleges in Iraq.

Key words: Accreditation, self-assessment, Nursing.

Methodology and design:

The self-assessment study took place from April 2023 till the first of April 2024. The current self-assessment was based on comparing the progress achieved versus the accreditation standards of nursing colleges, which were approved by the National Council for Accrediting Nursing Colleges and supervised by the Department of Accreditation in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Those standards are administrative capacity and resources, Faculty and staff, Students, Curriculum, and Outcomes.

Results:

The first & second standards contain nine criteria each. The third standard contains seven standards. The fourth standard contains ten standards, while the fifth one includes three criteria. Electronic database data is developed using clearly defined and written test plans. The head of the nursing department is a member of the college council and represents the department. The scientific dean directs the activities of the faculty and directs the nursing accreditation and curriculum committee and the faculty council with clear statements of authority and responsibility by the associate scientific dean, department head, and committee members.

Conclusions:

Staff skills are improved by attending seminars and conferences organized by colleges and universities. Staff in the department are motivated to change their traditional teaching methods to more innovative ones, especially student-centred learning, problem-based approaches, and interactive discussions. Moreover, Ongoing monitoring of syllabus implementation is ensured through clearly defined methods, documented in syllabus documents, and agreed to by staff.

نحو دراسة تقييم ذاتي برامجي لقسم التمريض / كلية مدينة العلم الجامعة (MAUC) 2024

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الخلاصة :

بناءً على توصيات ورشة عمل معايير اعتماد مدارس التمريض التي عقدت في بغداد في فبراير 2023 بدعم كامل من المجلس الوطني لاعتماد مدارس التمريض ACANC .

أجرينا هذه الدراسة بهدف تحديد الروابط والفجوات في الروابط بين المؤسسات القائمة. مقارنة برنامج التمريض في كلية مدينة العلم الجامعة مع المعايير الوطنية المعتمدة لاعتماد كليات التمريض في العراق.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الاعتماد، التقييم الذاتي، التمريض.

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المنهجية والتصميم :

تمت دراسة التقييم الذاتي في الفترة من أبريل 2023 حتى الأول من أبريل 2024. واعتمد التقييم الذاتي الحالي على مقارنة التقدم المحرز مع معايير الاعتماد لكليات التمريض التي أقرها المجلس الوطني لاعتماد كليات التمريض التي تشرف عليها قسم الاعتماد بوزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي. وهذه المعايير هي: القدرات الإدارية والموارد، وأعضاء هيئة التدريس والموظفين، والطلاب، والمناهج الدراسية، والنتائج.

النتائج :

يحتوي كل من المعيارين الأول والثاني على تسعة معايير. أما المعيار الثالث فيحتوي على سبعة معايير. ويحتوي المعيار الرابع على عشرة معايير، بينما يحتوي المعيار الخامس على ثلاثة معايير. يتم تطوير بيانات قاعدة البيانات الإلكترونية باستخدام خطط اختبار مكتوبة ومحددة بوضوح. رئيس قسم التمريض عضو في مجلس الكلية ويمثل القسم. يقوم العميد العلمي بتوجيه أنشطة الكلية ويوجه لجنة اعتماد ومناهج التمريض ومجلس الكلية ببيانات واضحة عن السلطة والمسؤولية من قبل العميد العلمي المشارك ورئيس القسم وأعضاء اللجنة.

الاستنتاجات :

يتم تحسين مهارات الموظفين من خلال حضور الندوات والمؤتمرات التي تنظمها الكليات والجامعات. و تحفيز الموظفين في القسم لتغيير أساليب التدريس التقليدية إلى طرق أكثر ابتكارًا، وخاصة التعلم الذي يركز على الطالب، والمناهج القائمة على حل المشكلات، والمناقشات التفاعلية. علاوة على ذلك، يتم ضمان المراقبة المستمرة لتنفيذ المنهج من خلال أساليب محددة بوضوح، وموثقة في وثائق المنهج، وموافقة عليها من قبل الموظفين.

Introduction:

Existing nursing schools are largely science-oriented, lack, to some extent, innovative initiatives, and play a secondary role in the primary health needs of the community. [1]

There is a need to strengthen the regulatory capacities of the governing health colleges to improve accountability and transparency and to provide clear standards and concrete guidelines for establishing new and for reaccrediting existing health profession schools. [2,3]. Increase awareness of colleges and other stakeholders in social accountability of nursing schools and make it a requirement for inclusion in the mission and mandate of nursing schools as well as standards for accreditation. [4, 5]

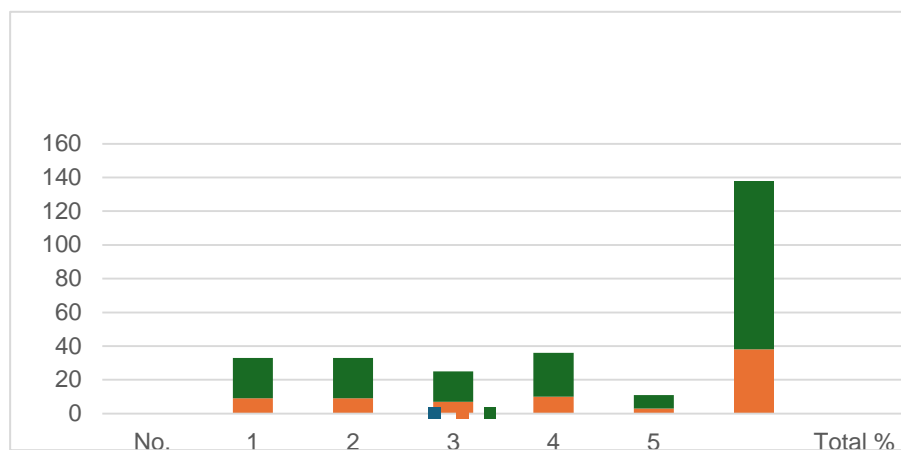
In the last ten years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of medical and health profession schools, which has led to significant expansion in the medical and health profession workforce in Iraq and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). The physician population density has improved significantly from the year 1990 to the year 2022. [6, 7]

Methodology:

The study is a multi-phase assessment which includes the development of an analytical framework, literature review, in-depth reviews, and development of a profile of the nursing college program, which is part of Madenat Al Elem University College, Baghdad/Iraq.

Results :**Table (1) :** showing the frequency distribution of standards and their related criteria.

No.	Contents	Number of criterions	%
1	Standard 1	9	24
2	Standard 2	9	24
3	Standard 3	7	18
4	Standard 4	10	26
5	Standard 5	3	8
Total %		38	100

**Figure (1) :** showing the frequency distribution of standards.**1. Administrative capacity and resources:**

Nursing schools and affiliated teaching hospitals/primary health care centres have some modern medical records departments but no properly established electronic databases and immediate retrieval facilities. To ensure continuous improvement in the quality of teaching, training, and patient care, we have implemented a review process and regularly monitor it.

Points of strength:

An accreditation and quality assurance department is in place and is committed to ensuring continuous quality improvement (CQI)

in teaching, training, and patient care. In addition, course units are established and operational.

Administrative Staff Management:

Organizational decision-making mechanisms for appointment

Points of strength:

There is a very productive collaboration between the Dean and the Faculty Council, as well as the Faculty Chairs, to improve the program's educational performance. Moreover, a Well documented and supervised student governance policy.

Points of Weakness:

The need for more collaboration with the administrative branch of the Ministry of Higher Education to achieve better higher education program outcomes.

Table (2): Frequency distribution of nursing department academic staff.

Type of staff	Number of staff	Percentage	Notes
Full time employees	5	33.4	
Partial time employees	10	66.6	
Total	15	100	

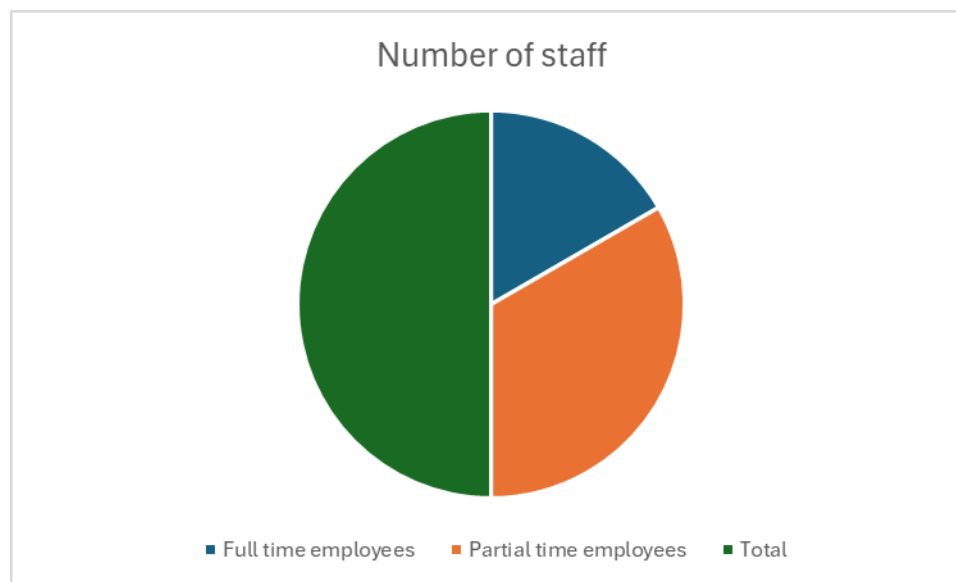


Figure (2) : showing the distribution of Academic staff.

Process of recruiting Academic Recruitment:

The University had a Promotions Committee, subject to the University Upper Council's jurisdiction, responsible for making decisions.

Community services:

There is no dedicated Academic Development Centre, but the College strives to provide more innovative opportunities for qualified individuals interested in enhancing the educational development of academic staff, including health education training courses.

Physics Resources (on-campus teaching facilities):

Physics facilities (on the University campus) include lecture halls and small problem-solving classrooms, practice labs, skills labs, computer labs, library, and anatomy department museum. The library is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm and has a capacity for 50 students. The total number of lecture halls is five, excluding

seminar halls with a smaller capacity. The Anatomy Department Museum contains specimens of various organs and dolls. The lecture hall can accommodate more than 60 people, and each seminar room can accommodate 30 people.

Points of strength:

New discussion rooms, skill labs, and research labs exist alongside well-equipped lecture halls equipped with data displays. Additionally, all department's laboratories are well-equipped. Moreover, learning resources are provided free of charge. Have access to computerized systems.

Points of Weakness:

Limited offices for faculty and staff, along with pathology museums, are provided by some department laboratories that necessitate more advanced teaching equipment. In addition, appropriate audio-visual aids for more relevant science material are needed.

2. Faculty and staff:

Nurses working as full-time professors, they possess the educational credentials necessary to the governing body and regulating bodies. They are qualified for the jobs and duties they have been given, and relatively enough in number.

3. Student (Admission Policy and Selection):

In Iraq, admission guidelines for higher education institutions are consistent across the board. These policies are established to accommodate the abundance of incoming applications for various faculties, based on demand and available space. To evaluate the candidates, the main factor taken into consideration is their academic performance in their final secondary school examination, after completing 12 years of education.

4. The Nursing Curriculum:

Outlined in a concise and achievable manner, our objectives and intended learning outcomes are well-documented. The school's mission and objectives clearly summarize our academic goals, which align with national standards and prioritize bolstering the well-being of our local community.

Classes follow the natural history of health and disease. It begins with natural and protective health and progresses through the stages of health promotion, early detection of disease and disease history.

Student Assessment and Exams Evaluation method:

Formative and Summative assessment. The department's scientific committee evaluates the submissions and selects the final sentence for the student's assessment.

Point of strength:

The Curriculum and Further Education Committee organized several workshops to raise awareness among academic staff on student assessment.

Points of Weakness:

Innovative assessment methods need to be more widely used. Greater transparency is needed when discussing grade details with students.

5. Outcomes:

Course supervision and evaluation, project evaluation mechanism is clearly defined.

Conclusion:

1. Electronic database data is developed using clearly defined and written test plans.

University governance through legislation and the role of MOHEs is well documented.

2. Associate Deans, department heads, and committee members.

3. Each department is responsible for course delivery in its field of study.

4. Students' opinions and contributions must be considered; mechanisms for collaborative research between university staff and clinicians established.

5. Employees must be provided with individual development plans tailored to their needs.

6. To establish adequate audio-visual aids in a skills laboratory building, it needs to be maintained and updated.

7. Weaknesses can be found in different areas and there are points that are susceptible to being exploited, leading to failure. It is essential to identify these areas to strengthen and prevent potential shortcomings.

8. Identifying these points of weakness can allow for more efficient allocation of resources towards addressing issues found.

9. The outpatient center needs to be refurbished and the new university polyclinic center will be activated and incorporated into the educational process.

10. Provision of all necessary facilities and maintaining the already existing ones.

11. Optional offers to students to have more health institutions attachment mainly at the end of 3rd and 4th year.

12. The practical and hospital/health center components of the curriculum should be expanded.

13. Increase engagement to encourage stakeholders to receive more evidence-based feedback.

Acknowledgment:

I would like to thank and commend the members of the self-assessment committee for their contribution and participation in this task through the distribution of questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, information gathering and the enthusiastic work of relevant documents. College students are very supportive, and their contribution is vital and considered one of the important pillars of this self-study, although their level of seriousness varies. My deepest gratitude to our Dean and Dean of scientific affairs for

their contributions and participation in this study.

- Source of funding: This research did not any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors (No source of funding)

- There is no Ethical issue related to our study.

- Authors confirm substantial contributions to the design of the work, analysis, and interpretation of data for the work, revisiting it critically for important intellectual content, approval to the final version to be published, and are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring integrity of the work.

- We have no conflict of interest to declare.

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