

Japan Accreditation Board for Nursing Education
Regulations for
the Implementation of Nursing Education Evaluation

Enacted: August 23, 2019 (Regulation No. 6)
Amended: December 6, 2019 (Regulation No. 12)
Amended: December 11, 2020 (Regulation No. 22)
Amended: March 5, 2021 (Regulation No. 23)
Amended: December 10, 2021 (Regulation No. 30)
Amended: December 9, 2022 (Regulation No. 36)
Amended: February 21, 2023 (Regulation No. 39)
Amended: December 13, 2024 (Regulation No. 60)

(Purpose)

Article 1: These Regulations stipulate matters concerning the nursing education evaluation (hereinafter referred to as “Evaluation”) conducted by the Japan Accreditation Board for Nursing Education (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”) in accordance with the Basic Principles of Evaluation Projects.

(Subject of Evaluation)

Article 2: The subject of Evaluation shall be nursing education programs offered by universities with nursing faculties.

(Application for Evaluation)

Article 3: A university intending to undergo Evaluation shall submit the prescribed Preliminary Application Form for Nursing Education Evaluation, addressed to the President of the Board, by the designated date two academic years prior to the year of Evaluation.

3-2. Based on the submitted Preliminary Application Form, the Board shall determine the universities to undergo Evaluation in the relevant year (hereinafter referred to as “Applicant Institutions”).

3-3. Applicant Institutions shall submit the prescribed Application Form for Nursing Education Evaluation, a draft of the Self-Assessment and Evaluation Report, the Evaluation Criteria Checklist, and supporting documents by the designated date, and shall pay the prescribed evaluation fee by the specified deadline.

3-4. Applicant Institutions shall submit the finalized Self-Assessment and Evaluation Report, the Evaluation Criteria Checklist, and supporting documents by the designated date.

3-5. Applicant Institutions must meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) Be a member of the Board and have paid the annual membership fee. For subsequent evaluations, membership must be continuously maintained.
- (2) Have reached the final academic year since the establishment of the faculty/department, have graduated students, and completed the Ministry of Education's implementation status survey for the final academic year.
- (3) Have undergone institutional accreditation and received a satisfactory evaluation.

3-6. In determining Applicant Institutions, priority shall be given to universities with a longer membership history.

(Cancellation of Application)

Article 4: If an Applicant Institution wishes to cancel its application due to unavoidable circumstances after being selected under Article 3, Paragraph 2 and after the explanatory meeting, it must pay a cancellation fee by the designated date in accordance with Article 3 of the Regulations on Evaluation Fees.

(Evaluation Process)

Article 5: Applicant Institutions shall conduct a self-assessment of their nursing education programs in the academic year prior to Evaluation, in accordance with the Board's Evaluation Criteria, and prepare a draft of the Self-Assessment and Evaluation Report and the Evaluation Criteria Checklist, along with supporting documents, to be submitted by the designated date.

5-2. The Board shall review the submitted documents for completeness and format.

5-3. Applicant Institutions shall revise the documents based on the Board's feedback and submit the finalized Self-Assessment and Evaluation Report, the Evaluation Criteria Checklist, and supporting documents by the designated date.

5-4. The Board shall evaluate the nursing education programs based on document review and on-site or web-based inspections.

5-5. During Evaluation, the Board may request additional supporting documents from Applicant Institutions as needed.

5-6. The Evaluation procedure for each Applicant Institution shall be as follows:

- (1) The Evaluation Committee shall form an Evaluation Team for each Applicant Institution.
- (2) The Evaluation Team shall conduct a document review and submit a Questionnaire for the Applicant Institution to the Board.
- (3) The Board shall send the questionnaire to the Applicant Institution and request responses.
- (4) The Applicant Institution shall prepare and submit a Response to Questionnaire to the Board.

- (5) Based on the document review and responses, the Evaluation Team shall conduct an on-site or web-based inspection and compile the results into an Evaluation Team Report, which shall be submitted to the Evaluation Committee.
- (6) The Evaluation Committee shall prepare a draft Evaluation Report based on the Evaluation Team's findings.
- (7) The Board shall send the draft Evaluation Report to the Applicant Institution and accept comments.
- (8) The Applicant Institution may submit a Statement of Opinion if factual errors are found in the draft report.
- (9) The Evaluation Committee shall review the Statement of Opinion and, if necessary, revise the draft report, then submit it to the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee.
- (10) The Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee shall review the revised report and prepare the final Evaluation Report.
- (11) Based on the final Evaluation Report, the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee shall issue a judgment of Compliant, Pending, or Non-Compliant and report the results to the Board of Directors.

(Evaluation Results)

Article 6: Evaluation results shall be indicated by a comprehensive judgment of Compliant, Pending, or Non-Compliant.

6-2. The Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee shall issue a Pending judgment when the program generally meets the evaluation criteria but has important areas requiring improvement.

6-3. The Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee shall issue a Non-Compliant judgment when the program is deemed not to meet the evaluation criteria overall.

6-4. The Board shall accredit nursing education programs that receive a Compliant judgment.

(Notification and Publication of Evaluation Results)

Article 7: The Board shall notify the applicant of the Evaluation results—Compliant, Pending, or Non-Compliant—by issuing the Evaluation Report under the name of the President.

7-2. The Board shall publish the Evaluation Report on its official website. However, data and materials submitted as supporting documents during the self-assessment and evaluation process shall be excluded from publication.

(Accreditation Period)

Article 8: For programs receiving a Compliant judgment, the accreditation period shall be seven years, beginning on April 1 of the academic year following the Evaluation.

(Information Disclosure)

Article 9: To enhance the transparency and objectivity of nursing education program evaluations, the Board shall disclose matters related to its activities and, to the extent possible, provide information related to Evaluation through appropriate means such as publication on its website.

9-2. When a request is made to disclose documents related to Evaluation, the Board shall, in principle, comply with the request.

9-3. When disclosing documents submitted by universities, the Board shall make a decision after consultation with the respective university.

(Recommendations to Universities)

Article 10: Recommendations to universities shall consist of three categories:

- Strengths and distinctive features (e.g., excellence, originality) · Issues for consideration
- Recommendations for improvement

(Re-Evaluation)

Article 11: A university that receives a Pending judgment under Article 6-2 must address the identified issues in its nursing education program and apply for re-evaluation within three years from the academic year following receipt of the Evaluation Report.

11-2. The application for re-evaluation must be submitted by the end of March in any applicable year within the specified period, together with the prescribed Re-Evaluation Application Form, Re-Evaluation Improvement Report, and supporting documents addressed to the President of the Board.

11-3. The procedures for re-evaluation shall be as follows:

- (1) The Evaluation Committee shall appoint an Evaluation Team responsible for the re-evaluation.
- (2) The Evaluation Team shall review the Re-Evaluation Improvement Report and supporting materials and may conduct an on-site or web-based inspection as necessary.
- (3) Based on the Evaluation Team's report, the Evaluation Committee shall assess the improvements made to the issues identified in the initial evaluation and prepare a Re-Evaluation Report indicating a comprehensive judgment of either Compliant or Non-Compliant.

- (4) The Re-Evaluation Report shall be finalized after deliberation by the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee.
- (5) The Board shall notify the university of the re-evaluation results via the Re-Evaluation Report and publish the report.
- (6) If the re-evaluation procedures are not completed within the specified period, the Board shall publish the original Evaluation Report with a Non-Compliant judgment and an explanation of the circumstances.
- (7) A Pending judgment shall not be issued in re-evaluation.
- (8) If the re-evaluation results in a Compliant judgment, the accreditation period shall be the remaining duration of the original accreditation period, starting from April 1 of the academic year following the initial evaluation.

(Appeal)

Article 12: A university that does not receive a Compliant judgment may file an appeal requesting a revision of the evaluation result.

12-2. The appeal must be submitted within two weeks of receiving the Evaluation Report by submitting a Statement of Appeal addressed to the President of the Board.

12-3. If an appeal is filed, the Board shall disclose that an appeal has been made when publishing the Evaluation Report.

12-4. The Appeal Review Committee shall promptly deliberate on the Statement of Appeal.

12-5. The Appeal Review Committee shall prepare an Appeal Review Report based on its deliberation and submit it to the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee.

12-6. The Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee shall deliberate on the submitted Appeal Review Report and notify the university of the result via an Appeal Review Decision issued under the name of the President of the Board.

12-7. The Appeal Review Decision shall be published through appropriate means, such as on the Board's website.

12-8. Universities may not file further appeals against the Appeal Review Decision.

(Evaluation Fee)

Article 13: Applicant Institutions must pay the prescribed evaluation fee by the designated deadline.

(Notification of Significant Changes After Evaluation)

Article 14: Universities accredited as Compliant must notify the Board within three months of any significant changes in educational or research activities related to the evaluation.

14-2. Upon receiving such notification, the Board shall consult with the university through the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee and take necessary actions, such as appending the relevant information to the Evaluation Report.

14-3. The methods of notification, review procedures, scope of reportable matters, and means of communication shall be stipulated separately.

(Revocation of Accreditation)

Article 15: If, during the accreditation period defined in Article 8 or Article 11-3-(8), it is found that a university accredited as Compliant has intentionally manipulated information, such as by submitting false reports or concealing facts that significantly affect the evaluation results, the Board may revoke the accreditation upon approval by the Board of Directors following deliberation by the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee.

15-2. If serious doubts arise regarding the validity of the Compliant judgment during the accreditation period, the Board may investigate through the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee and revoke the accreditation upon approval by the Board of Directors.

(Amendment)

Article 16: Amendments to these Regulations shall be made by resolution of the Comprehensive Evaluation Subcommittee.

Supplementary Provisions

1. These Regulations shall come into effect on August 23, 2019.
2. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on December 6, 2019.
3. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on January 8, 2021.
4. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on April 1, 2021.
5. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on December 10, 2021.
6. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on December 9, 2022.
7. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on February 21, 2023.
8. Amendments to these Regulations shall come into effect on December 13, 2024.

