



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2020/38

DECREE N 38

December 24, 2020

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF VARDENIS MEDICAL-HUMANITIES COLLEGE

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Vardenis Medical-Humanities College
Official Address:	19 building, V. Hanbardzumyan, Vardenis, Republic of Armenia
Previous Accreditation decision and date:	does not have

Guided by the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs” approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011; by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on the “Approval of RA Standards for Professional Education Accreditation”; by the procedure on the “Formation and Functioning 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 the Expert Panel of ANQA”, the ANQA Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of Vardenis Medical-Humanities College in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on 24 December 2020.

Having examined the Vardenis Medical-Humanities College’s self-evaluation of institutional capacities, remarks and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan based on the expert panel report, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the College which were made by the three members selected by the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the educational institution’s representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

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

Submission of application	January 22, 2019
---------------------------	------------------

Submission of the College's self-evaluation	August 23, 2019
Site-visit by the expert panel:	December 11–13, 2019
Submission of expert panel report	March 16, 2020
Submission of follow-up plan	March 25, 2020

The expertise of Vardenis Medical-Humanities College 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 of the ANQA”. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, four of them — **“Governance and Administration”, “Research and Development”, “External Relations and Internationalization”, “Internal Quality Assurance System”** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

While carrying out the evaluation, the expert panel took into consideration that Vardenis Medical-Humanities College, in accordance with its mission, provides the region with medical personnel of important significance, as well as trains librarians for the region's schools. The internal and external stakeholders emphasize the importance of the College's activity for Vardenis and nearby border villages. Students from 20 communities of Vardenis receive education in the College.

1. The academic programmes are described in the state education standards approved by the authorized body, and are based on measurable outcomes in the areas of knowledge, skills and competencies. The outcomes of course programmes developed by the College and the academic programmes are generally consistent with each other.

From time to time it is necessary to update the academic programmes, to revise the subject programmes, and have reliable mechanisms for monitoring.

In general, the College has created a favorable environment for the implementation of academic programmes, and education of students; has set extremely low tuition fees; as well as provides transportation for the students from the villages to Vardenis. The institution with the support of employers is mainly provided with the necessary resources for the implementation of the educational process.

Well-known doctors from the region teach at the College. The students are practiced in Vardenis medical institutions. This allows students to gain the most in-demand practical skills of the labour market.

In terms of credible award of qualifications, the College has trends and examples of progress, but there are still problems and risks.

2. The College still lacks strategic management, although the first steps have already been taken. The strategic plan and mechanisms have been developed to assess the effectiveness of its activities, and the progress of the strategic goals. However, the College needs to introduce more effective

mechanisms and tools to implement the governance through the PDCA cycle. The College has planned it in the follow-up plan. When making decisions, the College does not rely on a comprehensive analysis of internal and external factors, which does not allow to mitigate external risks and take advantage of opportunities.

The quality assurance system is still at the stage of formation.

Governance and quality assurance systems are at the stage of formation, but there are trends for development and the governance is directed towards quality improvement and credible award of qualifications.

3. The College has not yet clarified what research means for it, that is why the work towards the formation of critical thinking, research skills has shortcomings, and is not coordinated. The College has extensive contacts with the labor market participants of the marz and the region, which allows them to have an ongoing relationship and respond to labour market developments. However, steps promoting internationalization have not yet been taken.

Internationalization and research activities do not provide sufficient support for credible award of qualifications.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert report are crucial in terms of credible award of qualifications, meanwhile grounds for improvement have been laid.

5. The implementation of most of the follow-up plan does not involve risks. Achievement of the results outlined in the plan can help solve problems in different areas of the College, ensuring the sustainable progress of the institution.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Vardenis Medical-Humanities College for 2 /two/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months taking into account:
 - a) the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the field of “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**External Relations and Internationalization**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**” “**Internal Quality Assurance System**”.
 - b) the requirement to have quantitative indicators for the evaluation of progress and efficiency of the College’s ongoing processes;

- c) the necessity to clarify the amount of financial resources and the time-schedule for the evaluation and implementation of the processes carried out by the College.
3. In accordance with the requirements set by the Clause 12 of the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs”, every 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of improvement of the College’s activity, innovations and achievements.
4. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of efficiency of Vardenis Medical-Humanities College’s activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

December 24, 2020

Yerevan