

Akkreditierungsagentur
im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales
Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences



Assessment Report

**for the Application of
Cairo University (CU), Egypt
for the Accreditation of the Study Program “Nursing Science”,
Bachelor of Nursing Science**

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Decision

May 14, 2024

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master' programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains such as medicine or psychology. By conducting accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for implementing the quality assurance recommendations made by the AHPGS. Since 2004, the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS also joined the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in 2009. Since 2012, the AHPGS has been a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). Furthermore, the AHPGS has been listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) since 2009. On top of that, since 2023, the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) has recognized the AHPGS as an agency with recognition status for 10 years.

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria¹:

1. Program aims and their implementation
2. Structure of the study program
3. Admission and Feasibility
4. Examination System and Transparency
5. Teaching Staff and Material Equipment
6. Quality Assurance

¹ Approved by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission

7. Gender equality and equal opportunities

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the Self-Evaluation Report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfil the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. With this information, the AHPGS produces a summary, which is to be approved by the University and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the accreditation commission of AHPGS. This is done in order to verify the compliance of the study program with the applicable accreditation criteria. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out a site visit at the University. During this visit, discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers, and students. These discussions provide the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies, methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the site visit, the expert group evaluates the fulfilment of the criteria based on the results of the visit and the documents submitted by the HEI. This Assessment Report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the

Assessment Report is made available to the University for the opportunity to issue a response opinion.

The Assessment Report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the accreditation commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the Assessment Report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents lay basis for the decision of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Information about the University

The Cairo University is the second oldest Egyptian university and the third oldest in the Arab world. It was founded on the 21st of December 1908. Currently, the University has 28 faculties and two institutions in which a total number of 200,000 students are enrolled. There are approximately 91 departments in all faculties. The Center for Consultation and Research for Development and Technological Planning was established in 1979. It is considered the “commercial arm” of the University, mobilizing, and employing intellectual and knowledge property, scientific and research capabilities of the faculty members, and the laboratory capabilities through research and advisory contracts as well as training programs. The international branch of the University provides an integrated educational approach aiming to integrate education, scientific research and the knowledge of related programs that support development and innovation (SER 3.1.1).

The Faculty of Nursing of the University was established in 1964. Currently there are 1,181 male students and 1,795 female students enrolled in the Faculty as well as 1,092 international students which makes a total of 4,068 enrolled students. For now, the Faculty of Nursing is only offering the Bachelor of Nursing Science. According to the University, two other Bachelor programs will be implemented in the future (SER 3.2.1).

3 Overview

3.1 Procedure-related documents

The Self-Evaluation Report for accreditation of the above-mentioned study programs (hereinafter the SER) of the Cairo University (hereinafter the University) was submitted to the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) in electronic format on September 21, 2022. The decision regarding the accreditation of a study program is carried out by the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS. The contract between the Cairo University and the AHPGS was signed on the October 20, 2021.

On August 25, 2023 the AHPGS forwarded the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter OQ) pertaining to the application for accreditation for the study programs to the University. On September 20, 2023 the University submitted the answers to the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter AOQ) to the AHPGS in electronic format.

The application documentation submitted by the Cairo University follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Along with the application request towards accreditation of the Bachelor study program "Nursing Science", the following additional documents can be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the University are numbered in the following order for easier referencing):

Documents for the study program "Nursing Science"

Annex	Description
1	Program Specification
2	Teaching Matrix
3	Study Plan
4	CV
5	Module descriptions
6	Bylaw Faculty of Nursing
07	Internship Manual

The application, the open questions (OQ) and the answer to the open questions (AOQ) as well as the additional documents build the basis for the present

summary. The layout bears no significance, as it solely reflects the agreed standard between the AHPGS and the University.

3.2 Structural data of the study program

University	Cairo University																																		
Faculty/Department	Faculty of Nursing																																		
Cooperation partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cairo University Hospitals - Ministry of Health and Population - Mental Health Secretariat - Ministry of Education - Supreme Council of Media Regulation - Ministry of Social Solidarity - Ministry of Supply and Internal Trading - Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) 																																		
Title of the study program	"Nursing Science"																																		
Degree awarded	Bachelor of Nursing Science																																		
Form of studies	Full-time, on-campus																																		
Organisational structure	The classes are offered from Morning 08:00 till 17:00 on all weekdays (Sunday to Thursday)																																		
Language of Studies	English																																		
Period of education	Eight semesters + one mandatory internship year																																		
Credit Points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	141 Credit Hours (= 231 ECTS)																																		
Hours/CP	1 hour of lecture =1 credit 2 hours of laboratory = 1 credit 3 hours of clinical training = 1 credit																																		
Workload	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #cccccc;"> <th style="padding: 5px;">Domain</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Credit Hours</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Contact Hours</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">EC TS</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">SWL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Lab. training</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">11</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">22</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">18</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">450</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Clinical Training</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">38</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">114</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">62</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1550</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Theory</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">92</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">92</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">151</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3775</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #cccccc;"> <td style="padding: 5px;">Total</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">141</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">228</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">231</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5775</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Internship</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">12</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1872</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">20</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Domain	Credit Hours	Contact Hours	EC TS	SWL	Lab. training	11	22	18	450	Clinical Training	38	114	62	1550	Theory	92	92	151	3775	Total	141	228	231	5775	Internship	12	1872	20	500
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Internship	12	1872	20	500																															

CP for the final paper	2 CH
Launch date of the study program	Fall semester 1964
Time of admission	Fall semester
Number of available places on the program	800 every year
Number of enrolled students since 1964	13818
Particular enrollment conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Secondary Certificate - English as the first foreign language - Entrance exam (written and oral exam) - Medical examination, no physical problems
Tuition fees	10.000 Egyptian pounds for the whole program

Chart 1: Structural data of the study program

4 Expert Report

The site visit was carried out on February 26-27, 2024, according to the previously agreed schedule. Representatives from the head office of AHPGS accompanied the expert group.

The expert group met on February 25, 2024 for preliminary talks prior to the site visit. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation as well as questions that had been raised prior. Furthermore, they prepared the plan of the site visit at the University.

During the site visit, experts conducted discussions with the University management, representatives of the Faculty of Nursing, the chair, vice chair and the teaching staff of the program "Nursing Science" as well as with students currently studying in the program. Furthermore, they inspected the learning premises, such as lecture halls, seminar classrooms, library, and computer classes. Moreover, experts had the opportunity to examine the equipment and the capacity of the laboratories.

The expert report is structured in compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below. The documents submitted by the University, the experts' feedback to the documents, the observations made during the site visit, the results of discussions with the representatives of the University, Faculty of Nursing and the department of Nursing Science serve as the foundation for the statements made in the Assessment Report.

4.1 Program aims and their implementation

Summary

The "Nursing Science" program aims to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities. It emphasizes student-centered education to encourage critical thinking and a scientific mindset, in order to provide high-quality education that promotes intellectual advancement in nursing. The program integrates behavioral, social, and biological sciences to prepare graduates who can contribute positively to society (SER 3.1.1).

Following the National Qualifications Framework for Arab Republic of Egypt, the learning outcomes, overarching skills, and competencies are organized in five categories (Knowledge; Cognitive Skills; Interpersonal Skills & Responsibility; Communication, Information Technology and Numerical Skills; Psychomotor Skills). After studying in the Nursing Science program, the students should be able to (SER 1.3.3):

1) Knowledge

- Identify concepts from the humanities and behavioral sciences in the nursing practice,
- Identify etiology, clinical picture, complications, and management of common and life-threatening health problems,
- Apply the acquired knowledge related to biological, social, behavioral, and nursing sciences through competent nursing practice,
- Recognize principles of patient/client education,
- Manage the work environment and improve the performance of the nursing staff,
- Recognize the impact of the social, cultural, and economic context in the provision of health care to individuals and communities,
- State and recognize normal and abnormal structure and function of the human body.

2) Cognitive Skills

- Formulate nursing care plans for different age groups of patients and clients,
- Develop creative solutions to investigate problems related to nursing care, the health care context, and the nursing profession,
- Evaluate the contemporary developments and issues affecting human health,
- Construct activities and projects with students from the language, humanities, and sciences to address community issues or problems,
- Integrate theories and concepts from science, language, medicine, humanities, statistics, and research into nursing practice.

3) Interpersonal Skills & Responsibility

- Effectively manage time, resources, and priorities,
- Participate in ongoing educational activities related to professional issues,
- Act as a professional role model and mentor for less experienced nursing care providers,
- Demonstrate clinical thinking in taking decisions and clinical judgments,
- Demonstrate ethical conduct in the communication with colleagues, patients, families, and health team members.

4) Communication, Information Technology and Numerical Skills

- Adopt a professional relationship approach with colleagues, patients, families, and communities,
- Apply communication skills within the professional, social, and therapeutic contexts,
- Utilize information technology to search data basis,
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary health team using the skills of team building.

5) Psychomotor Skills

- Perform the roles and functions of a professional nurse competently,
- Provide professional holistic care,
- Used informal and formal methods of teaching appropriate to the patient/client's learning abilities,
- Measure critically the outcomes of nursing activities and make referrals to appropriate community resources.

Graduated students from the Nursing Science program can work in the following medical fields (SER 1.4.1):

- Nursing care provider in governmental and non-governmental health care institutions and organizations,
- Infection control specialist,
- Quality control and quality assurance specialist,
- Health and safety specialist in different companies or agencies,
- Clinical instructor in education and training departments in hospitals,
- Certified instructor in international and national education center,
- Researcher in research institutes and centers,
- Academic institutions,
- Inspector of hospitals and medical facilities,
- Home care agencies and companies,
- Medical affair in companies and agencies,
- Ambulance centers,
- Military hospitals.

According to the Egyptian Ministry of Health (EMH) 2022, the total number of nurses from different educational levels in Egypt is 180.814. The total number of nurses is 225.657 and out of them 27.078 are not currently working. The Egyptian Ministry of Health (EMH) reported that there is 11.06% gap between the actual working nurses and the needed nurses.

As the University states, about 10 percent of the Bachelor's graduates continue their postgraduate studies at Cairo University.

Judgement

As the experts state, the Faculty of Nursing at Cairo University demonstrates a comprehensive approach towards achieving its program aims. With a significant presence encompassing 25 hospitals and serving a substantial student body, it holds a prominent position within the Egyptian nursing landscape. Notably, it holds the distinction of being the first faculty of nursing in Egypt, reflecting its early establishment within the profession. Aligned with the Ministry of Education's strategy, the Faculty of Nursing operates autonomously within Cairo University. Its curriculum, developed exclusively by the University, undergoes regular benchmarking against international institutions to ensure its relevance and responsiveness to international developments in nursing education.

Supported by the University management, the Faculty of Nursing explores innovative program development initiatives, such as collaborations for dual-degree

programs with international partners like Germany. This reflects the faculty's commitment to adapting to evolving educational needs and fostering international connections.

With a focus on research, the faculty's strategic research plan aligns with global sustainability development goals, emphasizing faculty members' contributions to knowledge advancement and societal improvement. Through these efforts, Cairo University's Faculty of Nursing demonstrates a commitment to providing quality education, fostering innovation, and engaging with global trends in nursing education and practice.

From the experts' point of view the Bachelor study program "Nursing Science" focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.2 Structure of the study program

Summary

The program comprises 57 modules, out of which 50 are obligatory and seven are compulsory optional modules. There are between six and seven modules in total provided for each semester. All modules have to be completed within one semester. Currently, there are no semesters offered as a period for exchange programs (SER 1.2.1).

The list of modules offered:

Nr.	Title	Sem.	CP
MED101	Anatomy I	1	3
MED102	Physiology I	1	2
SUP101	Sociology	1	2
MED103	Microbiology	1	4
MED104	Biochemistry	1	3

GEN101	English Language I	1	4
			18
MED105	Anatomy II	2	2
MED106	Physiology II	2	2
GEN102	English Language II	2	3
NUR101	Foundations of Nursing (Theory)	2	3
NUR102	Foundations of Nursing (Practicum)	2	4
			17
NUR201	Medical Surgical Nursing I (Theory)	3	3
NUR202	Medical Surgical Nursing I (Practice)	3	4
NUR203	Health Assessment	3	4
MED201	Pathophysiology	3	3
MED202	Pharmacology	3	2
SUP201	Psychology	3	2
			18
NUR204	Medical Surgical Nursing II (Theory)	4	3
NUR205	Medical Surgical Nursing II (Practice)	4	4
MED203	Applied Nutrition	4	2
SUP202	Learning Strategies and Health Education	4	2
SUP203	Statistics	4	2
MED204	Applied Pharmacology	4	2
NUR206	Ethical and Legal Aspects of Nursing	4	2
			17
NUR301	Pediatric Nursing (Theory)	5	3
NUR302	Pediatric Nursing (Practicum)	5	4
NUR303	Emergency Nursing (Theory)	5	2
NUR304	Emergency Nursing (Practicum)	5	4
NUR305	Growth and Development Across Lifespan	5	3
NUR306	Nursing Informatics	5	2
			18
NUR307	Maternity and Newborn Health Nursing (Theory)	6	3
NUR308	Maternity and Newborn Health Nursing (Practicum)	6	4
NUR309	Nursing Research	6	2
NUR310	Critical Care Nursing (Theory)	6	2
NUR311	Critical Care Nursing (Practicum)	6	4
ELEC	Elective Course	6	2

			17
NUR401	Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing (Theory)	7	3
NUR402	Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing (Practicum)	7	4
NUR403	Nursing Administration (Theory)	7	3
NUR404	Nursing Administration (Practicum)	7	2
NUR405	Evidence-based Nursing	7	2
NUR406	In-service Training	7	2
ELEC	Elective Course	7	2
			18
NUR407	Community Health Nursing (Theory)	8	3
NUR408	Community Health Nursing (Practicum)	8	4
NUR409	Geriatric Nursing (Theory)	8	2
NUR410	Geriatric Nursing (Practicum)	8	2
NUR411	Graduation Project	8	2
MED401	Geriatric Pharmacology	8	2
MED402	Epidemiology	8	3
			18
	Total:		141

Tabelle 2: Modulübersicht

The module description/catalogue covers the following aspects: module number and title, description of the content, level/semester, credit hours (divided in lecture hours, practical hours, and self-study hours), language of instruction, learning outcomes/goals/skills, content of the module, examination methods.

The Nursing Sciences program lasts for four years and includes 57 modules covering obligatory and elective courses.

The distribution of the modules is as follows:

Study Program Modules	Number of modules	Credit hours
Nursing Sciences	30	89
Medical Sciences	12	30
Supportive Sciences	5	10
General Sciences	3	8
*Elective	5	4
University Requirements	2	4 (not included in GPA)
Total	57	141

*students chose two elective courses only which equal four credit hours

After the eight semesters of study, the students also have to take a mandatory internship training year. The program aims to introduce the students to student-

centered education, to encourage critical thinking and to provide them with a scientific mindset. To improve their communication skills, the students take two English classes (English Language I and II). During the first year of study, they get to study the Basics of Medical Sciences such as Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, or Pharmacology. After learning the foundations of Nursing theory and practice during the first semesters, the students get to take different nursing specialties (Medical Surgical, Critical Care, Emergency, Pediatrics, etc). Moreover, the study program includes some social oriented classes like Growth and Development across lifespan, Sociology, or Lifestyle Modification in Chronic Illness (SER 1.3.4).

The internship year is a compulsory training period of 12 months during which the students get to work in the university hospitals. This experience allows the students to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their study. The administration of the Nursing program is responsible for developing a plan for the practical training program and for overseeing its implementation after the Faculty Council approval. It is ensured that the plan includes some basic clinical specialties, being the following: adult nursing; obstetrics and gynecology nursing; pediatric and adolescent nursing. The internship aims to increase the efficiency of the students, to improve their abilities and skills and to give them the opportunity to gain practical experience. The specific goals of the internship program are as follows:

- Provide nursing care that is integrated, efficient, and of high quality.
- Use modern technologies to provide integrated nursing care.
- Practice the administrative duties necessary for the quality of nursing care.
- Apply effective communication skills between health team members that help access integrated health care.
- Share in preparing and implementing various educational activities such as seminars and discussion panels.
- Cooperate with health team members to achieve quality health care.

Inside of the faculty, internship supervisors and an internship coordinator are responsible for the joint supervision of the faculty and the training entity. The faculty members provide periodic updates to the internship coordinator which are based on the results of assessments or attendances. At the end of the internship, the department conducts a summative assessment exam (SER 1.2.6).

The teaching staff of the program uses different teaching methods and strategies depending on the objectives of the classes. Lectures are organized interactively with open discussions between the students and the lecturer. Besides that, teamwork groups are highly encouraged and used for research, practical projects, assignments, and study groups. Simulation scenarios are also used as a teaching method through pictures, diagrams, videos, role-playing or field visits (SER 1.2.4).

The classrooms are well equipped with whiteboards and smart boards connected to the internet. The university also allows the utilization of electronic services like the Blackboard platform. The Blackboard platform serves for the communication between students and teachers, as well as for the upload of course materials. Assessment Gourmet helps in managing the formative and summative assessments processes. Incision Academy offers online courses making surgical skills and knowledge accessible to the students (SER 1.2.5).

According to the University, there is currently no opportunity for students to study abroad (SER 1.2.9).

Judgement

The Bachelor study program “Nursing Science” has a course-based structure and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the courses are embedded within the course specifications. These course specifications contain information on intended learning outcomes, content of the course, summative and final assessment methods, and literature. The experts highlight the program's focus on women's healthcare and community care, reflecting a commitment to addressing pertinent societal needs. However, the experts recommend to stronger emphasize on interprofessional education to prepare students for collaborative healthcare environments.

The University's internship program is structured to provide comprehensive preparation and practical experience. Before each clinical area, students are introduced to their clinical instructors, ensuring a smooth transition. A two-week preparation course equips students with the necessary skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared for their internship responsibilities. During the internship, practical examinations are conducted in the OSCE labs within the Faculty. In clinical areas, students are evaluated using checklists and through observation. The internship spans 12 months, allowing students to rotate through

different areas and gain diverse experiences. Daily supervision ensures students receive guidance and support, while a two-week orientation program familiarizes them with the internship expectations and environment. From the experts' point of view, these structured internship processes ensure students receive hands-on experience and ample support throughout their clinical training, preparing them for successful entry into their respective fields upon graduation.

The experts inquire about e-learning elements within the study program. While mid-term and final exams typically require physical presence, certain courses are conducted online, allowing for flexible self-learning opportunities. An online platform facilitates access to resources, including the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, which is currently undergoing maintenance. E-learning initiatives are facilitated through platforms like the Blackboard platform, offering blended learning opportunities. Currently, a mixed-method approach is employed, including video resources for practical sessions, allowing students to access course materials from home.

According to the University, research is an integral part of all study programs. The Nursing Sciences program includes three modules based on research, being the following: Statistics (SUP203), Nursing Research (NUR309), and Evidence-based Nursing (NUR405). These classes allow the students to learn the research ethics and skills required to plan, conduct, analyze, and present their results. Moreover, the Faculty of Nursing encourages the students to take part into international projects and conferences and motivates them to present their research results at the international conference of the faculty. The graduation project also ensures the development of the students' research competencies. For the graduation project, students are empowered to choose their topics and conduct empirical research. They collect data, analyze it, and present their findings, fostering critical thinking and research skills. Students engage in a 2-credit-hour graduation project, conducting small-scale research under their own initiative. They collect data, perform statistical analysis, and have dedicated time to submit their written findings. The project topics are wide-ranging and deal with relevant healthcare issues.

Internationalization efforts are underway, with plans for student exchange programs and existing opportunities for staff mobility. The experts welcome these efforts and recommend to strengthen these plans.

The experts acknowledge the very detailed course files with its contents and aims, which allows a high level of transparency. In the experts' opinion, the structure of the curriculum seems to make the workload manageable.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.3 Admission and Feasibility

Summary

The general requirements for the admission into the Nursing Sciences program are the following:

- Secondary education final certificate in a scientific section,
- English language as first foreign language,
- To pass the entrance exam consisting of a written exam and an interview,
- To pass the medical examination, being free from any physical program.

Moreover, there are regulations for special cases of admission. Graduates of technical nursing institutes are admitted into the program according to the rules and policies determined by the University. Though the number of accepted students is not more than 20% of the total number of second level students at the faculty. Bachelor's graduates in a scientific section can be exempted from attending certain courses that they have already completed. They are also exempted from the entrance written exam. Transfer students are accepted into the program as long as they have not been dismissed for disciplinary reasons (SER 1.5.1).

The governmental university are planned to provide a barrier free environment for physically challenged students. As a part of the admission procedure, the students undergo a medical examination. Individual cases with disabilities or chronic illnesses are forwarded to the concerned faculty council and a decision is taken based on the degree of disability and the program requirements. Concerning the Nursing Science program, no students with physical or mental handicap affecting their ability to complete the program requirements are accepted because the program requires a high level of mental and physical fitness (SER 1.6.10).

The transfer of a student during any semester takes place according to the procedures and dates announced by the University under the general transfer rules.

The transfer of a student from outside the university may be accepted under the following conditions:

- The student has to be enrolled at a recognized faculty or university,
- The student must not have been dismissed from that university for disciplinary reasons,
- The student must satisfy the transfer provisions determined by the University.

To be admitted, the student has to submit a request to the dean of admission and registration with the approval from his previous university, the courses description, the academic transcript, and a copy from his secondary school certificate. The maximum amount of credits that can be transferred from other universities is 40% of the total credit hours in the curriculum. Moreover, to transfer the credits from the courses taken at the other university, the content of this course should be at least 80% equivalent to the course offered at the Cairo University. The courses evaluated as equivalent are then transferred to the students' record and included into the calculation of the cumulative GPA (SER 1.5.3).

After enrollment in the Nursing Science program, all the students are assigned an academic advisor who assists them in getting familiar with the services, with understanding the University and program policies, with the curriculum and with any issue affecting the teaching and learning experience. The academic advisor is also responsible for monitoring and guiding the student progress throughout his academic education (SER 1.6.8).

Judgement

The admission policies and procedures along with the requirements are properly documented and made publicly available. The experts determine the admission procedures and requirements to be appropriate, as they correspond to the standards of the study program.

The experts draw attention to the relatively high number of exams to be passed during both of the study programs. In order to prepare students for the level of difficulty and volume of exams, the type as well as the time of the different examinations is defined and communicated to the students transparently through the course specifications at the beginning of each course. The experts confirm that the University takes good measures to guarantee the feasibility of the study

programs despite the high workload. The organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study programs.

On site, it became obvious that the teaching staff follows an “open-door-policy”. In the first week of each year, students undergo an orientation which familiarizes them with available support services and where the colleges and departments are introduced.

The University offers academic support tailored to individual needs, including alternative plans, special content, courses, or schedules. The council of the department oversees these support measures to ensure their effectiveness.

As another support mechanism, an academic advisor is responsible for a small number of students from the beginning of each semester. Students are supported through advisors, course coordinators or personal tutors with their registration process, selecting a study program, financial and personal issues and their performance during the semester. If the students have problems besides academic issue, a social support unit is installed at the University. The experts find the support services at the University to be exemplary and conducive to the health and success of the student body.

At the beginning of the academic year, students with chronic illnesses undergo a thorough screening process. They are required to provide relevant health information, such as blood pressure readings and medication details. In cases where students miss exams due to illness, arrangements are made for makeup exams to accommodate their circumstances.

Decision

From the experts’ point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.4 Examination system and transparency

Summary

The assessment measures are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching methods for delivering the learning objectives of each module. Different direct and indirect assessment methods are used to match the course goals. The evaluation methods used for theoretical courses are the following:

- Objective-type tests,

- Oral exams,
- Essay-style questions,
- Assignments,
- Individual and/or group projects.

Concerning the practical courses, following assessment methods are being used:

- Objective-structured clinical exams (OSCE),
- Case studies,
- Reflective practice assignments,
- Clinical exams,
- Individual and/or group projects.

Students can not take part to the final exam if their absence percentage exceeds 25%. For the clinical exam, the students must have competed at least 60% of the total clinical training degrees. In case a student misses the final exam of a course, he is allowed to retake the exam if he submits a valid excuse. The exam must be retaken before the start of the registration period for the next level.

The grading system is showed in the following table:

The percentage obtained by the student	Level	Letter Grade	Grade point
95 - 100	x	A+	4
90 - > 95	Excellent	A	3.7
85 - > 90	Excellent	A-	3.4
80 - > 85	Very good	B+	3
75 - > 80	Very good	B	2.7
70 - > 75	Good	C+	2.3
65 - > 70	Good	C	2
60 - > 65	Pass	D+	1.6
55 - > 60	Pass	D	1.3
50 - > 55	Pass	D-	1
0 > 50	Failed	F	Zero
-	محروم	Denied	Zero
-	Incomplete	IC	-
-	Withdraw	W	-

If a student fails a course, he has to retake it and try the exam again. According to the University, the student support services are sufficient and appropriate. The students with chronic diseases, excluding mental illness and physical disability, are guaranteed compensation for the performance evaluation measures and the general requirements of the study process. Academic and social supports are available to nursing students through Student Support Services of the faculty (SER 1.2.3).

The students have access to the electronic system of credit hours registration through the web site of the college. The website provides details about the academic requirements, the complete academic plan, and their attendance. The electronic registration also helps the students in the automatic selection of modules, in adding and dropping of modules, in managing their schedules and in giving information about examination and grades. The rules and regulations of the examination process are announced to the students in advance (SER 1.6.7).

Judgement

The University uses a continuous assessment process to ensure the quality of education for its students. The study programs have a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations, repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students. From the experts' point of view, the examination serves to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge and competences. Nevertheless, in the experts' opinion, the study program includes a very high number of exams which causes a high workload not only for students but also for the teaching staff. The transparent information of examination methods and of the examination schedule at the beginning of each term makes the high number of assessments during and at the end of each semester manageable. An examination can be repeated once. Students who cannot attend the test due to health issues or other unforeseen circumstances are allowed to take the test on another agreed day. If the examination is failed twice, students must redo the course in the following semester. Thus, the experts conclude that the examinations, although numerous, serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved or not and are focused on students' knowledge.

The requirements to students' performance in examinations are regulated and published in the course specification. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organizations, is appropriate.

The University ensures that information about its activities, particularly the programs it offers, is easily accessible to prospective and current students, graduates, other stakeholders and the public. The published information includes detailed insights into the selection criteria for programs, intended learning outcomes, qualifications awarded, and the procedures employed for teaching,

learning, and assessment. Furthermore, pass rates and available learning opportunities to students as well as graduate employment information are shared.

Clear communication of examination methods ensures transparency and fairness for students. Course specifications outline objectives, topics, and assigned examination methods, providing clear guidance on expectations. From the experts' point of view, the relevant information concerning the study program, the process of education, the admission requirements and compensation regulations are documented and published.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

Summary

The total number of teaching staff of the "Nursing Science" program currently comprises 55 professors, 31 assistant professors, 60 lecturers & 76 assistant lecturers as well as 78 instructors/demonstrators. All of them are employed on a full-time basis.

The teaching load of the staff members varies depending on the academic degree. A clinical instructor has to teach 16 hours/week, an assistant lecturer 14 hours/week, a lecturer 12 hours/week, an assistant professor 10 hours/week and a professor 8 hours/week. The faculty/student ratio for the academic year 2020/2021 was 1:18.2 (SER 2.1.1).

According to the University, efforts are made to develop and upgrade the newly employed staff as well as to continue the development of senior clinical instructors and faculty members. The Continuing Education Center prepares an annual staff development plan providing training courses. At the end of the provided courses, the trained staff members have the opportunity to give feedback about the training course. This feedback is then analyzed by the Quality Assurance Unit (SER 2.1.3).

Administrative and technical staff is hired at the University. Their distribution in the Faculty of Nursing depends on the needs of the various administration departments. Internal changes in the administration are possible depending on the needs of the departments (SER 2.2.1).

Administrative and technical staff have been hired by Cairo University. Their distribution within the Faculty of Nursing is then determined based on the needs of the various administrative departments. The administrative departments within the Faculty of Nursing include both general administration departments and specialized units. However, internal mobility between the different administrative departments is controlled and dependent on the internal needs of the organization. As of the 2021-2022 academic year, the Faculty of Nursing employs:

- 25 technicians
- 153 administrative staff
- 5 retired individuals working under contract

The Faculty of Nursing has one main building consisting of five floors including:

- Basic Nursing and Medical Surgical Labs (306 students),
- Critical Care Nursing Lab (25 students),
- Pediatric and Maternity Nursing Lab (140 students),
- Language Lab (25 students),
- Anatomy Lab (101 students),
- OSCE Nursing Lab (140 students),
- Audiovisual Lab.

Additionally, there are ten lecture rooms and auditorium available (SER 2.3.1).

The Faculty of Nursing has three libraries being: the Main Library; the Faculty Library; and the Electronic Library Lab (SER 2.3.2). The library comprises approximately 9613 textbooks covering various nursing disciplines, as well as related fields like research, education, curriculum development, physical examination, pain management, psychology, communication, sociology, and pharmacology.

Moreover, the digital library is equipped with eight computers with internet access, linked to the Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB). Additionally, it is connected

to the Central Library of Cairo University and affiliated with the Arabic and Egyptian Union of Libraries.

The Faculty of Nursing offers a Computer Lab with a total capacity of 25 students. The Computer Lab is equipped with the internet service which allows the students to be connected with the Official Teaching Channel of the Nursing Faculty (SER 2.3.3).

The Cairo University manages the funds for clinical instructors and faculty members. In case of internationally published work through considered organizations, the University returns 50% of the costs back to the researchers. Moreover, there are regulations for research funds for post graduate students (SER 2.3.5).

Judgement

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the programs and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Overall, the teaching and academic staff at the Cairo University shows a very high level of commitment and potential for the execution as well as further development of the study program they are responsible for. The experts conclude that there is a strong corporate identity and positive group dynamics among the University and the faculty administration.

The experts find the number of human resources allocated to the program to be sufficient to carry out its functions. The teaching staff is well qualified and in possession of academic and technical credentials and experience adequate to their tasks. However, the infusion of new talent from other universities to enrich the teaching staff and bring fresh perspectives to the faculty is recommended.

The University informs its employees about opportunities for personal and professional development transparently, and actively encourages their participation in workshops, training courses and conferences intended to improve their abilities, which is confirmed during the talks with the staff on site. To enhance teaching quality, instructors undergo one month of training in administrative skills. Demonstrators begin their roles as shadows, gradually assuming teaching responsibilities. The University operates a Didactic Competences Training Center (ICU) to further develop teaching skills.

The provision of skills labs, adequately divided into groups to accommodate the large student cohort, ensures practical training opportunities are readily available.

The University offers two types of support for research: post-doctoral research opportunities and financial support upon publication. Faculty members are allotted free time to pursue research efforts, and there are allocated budgets for research projects within the Faculty of Nursing. To support research efforts, dedicated hours are allocated for research activities. The research plan is overseen by a research committee, with titles selected by department committees and proposed to the ethical committee for approval.

As a whole, it was ascertained by the experts that the Bachelor study program “Nursing Science” has ample teaching facilities at its disposals. The University boasts sufficient skills labs, organized into groups to accommodate a large student body. These labs provide hands-on training opportunities and are open for scheduled training sessions, enhancing practical skill development among students. Nevertheless, the University explains to face challenges due to the large number of students, necessitating the expansion of laboratory capacity. Additionally, some students face difficulties in securing internships, prompting the need for improved virtual lab facilities to supplement practical training. Laboratories play a crucial role in students' academic journey, providing hands-on experience. Each scientific department maintains its own laboratory, equipped with resources aligned with departmental competencies.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.6 Quality assurance

Summary

The Cairo University follows the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (NAQAA) standards. These standards are organized in twelve areas of activity for both institutions and programs, being the following:

- Strategic planning,
- Leadership and governance,
- Quality and contentions improvement,
- Administrative system,
- Human and financial resources,
- Faculty staff,
- Academic standards and educational programs,
- Students and graduates,
- Teaching and learning,
- Scientific research activities,
- Graduates' studies,
- Community services.

The NAQAA also provides supporting documentation including key performance indicators, student surveys, self-evaluation scales, and templates for program and course specifications as well as reports.

At the Cairo University the Center for Quality Assurance and Education (CAAE) is responsible for providing support, guidelines and specify the generic standards of learning outcomes in accordance with the NAQAA standards. There is a Quality Assurance Unit responsible for the quality assurance in the Nursing Sciences program. This unit is composed of a board of directors, an executive director, and representatives. The Unit aims to follow-up and evaluate the performance of the program to raise its level of efficiency and competitiveness (SER 1.6.1).

The quality assurance process of the Nursing Science program is based on the following aspects:

- Profile of the student population,
- Student progression and success rates,
- Employability of the graduates,
- Students' satisfaction with their program,
- Effectiveness of teachers,
- Availability of learning resources,
- Key performance indicators,
- Studying modules and exams evaluation.

The Quality Assurance Unit then coordinates with the Deanship, the unit team and the unit council for the development and evaluation of the various quality measures for the educational programs in the Faculty of Nursing (SER 1.6.2).

Every year various surveys are conducted to collect the opinion of all the involved stakeholders (students, faculty, employers, administrators, and community). The students of the Nursing Science program provide feedback, suggestions and opinions in various surveys conducted by the Quality Assurance Unit. During the final exams, the students give their opinion about the Question papers after completing the exam. At the end of each academic year, the module coordinator consults all the teachers and sends recommendations in the course report regarding the revision of the learning outcomes, assessment methods, course content, etc. The course report is discussed by the Department council, the Education and Students' Affairs Committee, the Faculty Council and the Quality Assurance Unit. Moreover, annual internal and external expert evaluators are constituted for the module evaluation. Based on the recommendations, the department council takes measures to make modifications if necessary (SER 1.6.3).

The evaluation of the relevance of the study program is also assured through the periodic feedback obtained from the graduated students and the professional and regulatory bodies. Their opinions and suggestions are discussed in the Quality Assurance Unit Council and eventually added to the annual improvement plan (SER 1.6.4).

According to the Faculty of Nursing Bylaws, the minimum course load per semester is 12 credit hours, and the maximum is 18 credit hours. However, with the approval of the Vice Dean of Education and Student Affairs, a student who has maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 in the last two semesters or is expected to graduate in the next semester, can register for up to 21 credit hours. Graduate students are allowed to register for a maximum of 23 credit hours. The Bylaws also stipulate that no student shall be given more than two examinations in one day, and the student's timetable is designed to not exceed 8 hours per day. Theoretical class sessions for nursing subjects are limited to 180 minutes, while non-nursing subjects are limited to 120 minutes, with a 10-minute break after every 50 minutes. Clinical and practical sessions range from 300 to 360 minutes. Students have the flexibility to select, add, and drop courses, and manage their own schedules through the faculty system. The academic advising office within the Faculty of Nursing monitors the students' course load

registration and customizes a graduation plan for each student based on their academic transcript and cumulative GPA (SER 1.6.5).

The following tables show the enrollment details from 2019 to 2021:

Table 18: enrolment details in bachelor program of the academic year 2019/2020

Student Category	2019 1 st level		2019 2 nd level		2019 3 rd level		2019 4 th level		Internship year	
	male	Female	male	Female	male	female	male	female	male	female
Total enrolment	499	277	165	257	185	304	135	251	115	222

Table 19: enrolment details in bachelor program of the academic year 2020/2021

Student Category	2021 1st year		2021 2nd year		2021 3rd year		2021 4th year		2021 5th year	
	male	Female	male	Female	male	female	male	female	male	female
Total enrolment	314	367	238	426	163	240	171	300	144	276

Judgement

From the experts' point of view, the University has a well-structured system of quality assurance spread across all of its unit. The University has developed and documented a concept of quality assurance in the education process, teaching and research, which serves as the basis for the quality-oriented development and implementation of the study program "Nursing Science".

The process of revising modules involves collaboration between the curricula development committee, respective departments, and the vice dean of educational affairs. Feedback from students and stakeholders is integral to this process, with all courses evaluated and curricula adjusted accordingly. Student representatives also contribute to these revisions, ensuring their perspectives are considered.

In addition to student input, market needs are carefully considered during the revision process. Faculty members, including those from the Nursing program, contribute their expertise to ensure interdisciplinary perspectives are incorporated. This interdisciplinary approach extends to fields such as physiotherapy, enhancing the diversity and relevance of the curriculum.

Furthermore, faculty members provide supervision for thesis and graduate studies, guiding students through their research endeavors and ensuring high academic standards are maintained. Through these collaborative efforts, the

University ensures that its programs remain responsive to evolving educational and industry requirements, preparing students for success in their chosen fields.

The University consistently monitors and periodically reviews its programs to ensure alignment with established objectives, responsiveness to the evolving needs of students and society, and the facilitation of continuous program improvement. These systematic reviews are integral to the University's commitment to maintaining the relevance of study programs and fostering a supportive and effective learning environment for students. The evaluation process encompasses various aspects, including the regular examination of program content in light of the latest research in the discipline, consideration of changing societal needs, assessment of student workload, progression, and completion rates, evaluation of the effectiveness of procedures for student assessment, collection of feedback on student expectations, needs, and satisfaction regarding the program, and examination of the suitability of the learning environment and support services for the program's objectives.

The University possess a robust data collection system and gathers comprehensive data on its study programs and other activities. Various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are captured by the University, such as student progression, success rates, and dropout rates. With an established feedback mechanism, the University regularly measures student satisfaction with their programs, the learning resources and the available student support. The University also actively tracks the career paths of its graduates. From the experts' point of view, mechanisms are in place to ensure that the perspectives of students and staff are considered in decision-making processes.

Regular program reviews and revisions are conducted, actively involving students and other stakeholders in the process. The information collected from these reviews undergoes analysis, and program adaptations are made to ensure the program is up-to-date. Any actions planned or taken as a result of these reviews are communicated to all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the University ensures the publication of revised program specifications, fostering transparency and keeping stakeholders informed of changes resulting from the systematic review process.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

Summary

The Faculty of Nursing follows the same rules and regulations for male and female students. According to the University, it is ensured that both sections have equal rights and responsibilities governed by the University Bylaws. The faculty of nursing apply the same enrolment rules for both genders, they have the same opportunities in clinical training, clinical evaluation, students self-learning activities, examination rules. In addition, male and female attending and sharing the same class's activities. Both genders undergo the same student mechanism. Moreover, provide the opportunity for both male and female students to engage in extracurricular activities. They are equally involved in the student union elections; they also have the same chance to lead the student union (SER 1.6.9).

Cairo University is designed to provide a barrier-free environment for physically challenged students who are accepted. As part of the admission procedure, all accepted students must undergo a pre-fitness screening program and a personal interview. Individual cases involving disabilities or chronic illnesses are forwarded to the respective faculty council, where decisions are made based on the degree of the disability and the program requirements. Notably, the Bachelor of Nursing program has particularly high physical and mental fitness requirements. As a result, students with physical or mental handicaps that would affect their ability to complete the program's requirements are not accepted into the Nursing program.

Judgement

The University demonstrates its commitment to the provision of equal opportunities for all students and shows openness for diversity and social development. Overall, the experts conclude that the University's actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

5 Conclusion

In conclusion, the Faculty of Nursing at Cairo University demonstrates a commendable commitment to student welfare, evidenced by the positive feedback received from students who appreciate the faculty's efforts, particularly in clinical planning and support. The clarity of examination requirements ensures transparency and facilitates effective academic planning for students. Moreover, the curriculum effectively fulfills its intended purpose, with the graduation project and published student works receiving positive recognition. The faculty's structure regarding e-learning, including access to databases from home, is robust and conducive to modern educational practices.

Looking ahead, the planned expansion of the faculty's infrastructure is recommended to accommodate its growing needs and further enhance its academic offerings. The faculty benefits from a dedicated and knowledgeable staff who are well-equipped to contribute to promotion and research projects, supported by a clear schedule and organizational structure. Moving forward, the experts recommend the infusion of new talent from other universities to enrich the teaching staff and bring fresh perspectives to the faculty. Additionally, the implementation of interdisciplinary teaching methods and collaborations across different faculties is encouraged to foster a holistic approach to education.

Furthermore, there is a suggestion to enhance the curriculum by integrating international challenges, particularly in addressing the needs of individuals with chronic conditions. By embracing these recommendations, the Faculty of Nursing at Cairo University can continue to excel in providing quality education and preparing future nursing professionals to meet the evolving demands of the healthcare landscape.

Based on the information from written documents and the results of the site visit, the experts came to the conclusion that the study program "Nursing Science" offered at the Cairo University fulfills the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS make a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- A stronger emphasize on interprofessional education to prepare students for collaborative healthcare environments is recommended.

- Mobility windows and options for students should be created.
- The planned expansion of the faculty's infrastructure is recommended to accommodate its growing needs and further enhance its academic offerings.
- The infusion of new talent from other universities to enrich the teaching staff and bring fresh perspectives to the faculty is recommended.

6 Decision of the accreditation commission

Decision of the accreditation commission May 14, 2024

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the University's application, as well as the expert review and the site visit covered in the Assessment Report. The Accreditation Commission has also taken the response opinion of the University regarding the study program into account.

The site visit of the University took place on February 26-27, 2024, according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation procedure is structured according to the Accreditation Criteria developed by the AHPGS. The Accreditation Criteria are developed by the AHPGS in close accordance with the existing criteria and requirements valid in the Federal Republic of Germany and based on the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group regarding the Assessment Report.

The Bachelor study program requires the obtainment of 141 Credit Hours according to the internal credit hour system. The regulated study period in the program "Nursing Science" is 5 years: eight semesters at the University followed by a mandatory internship year. The study program comprises 57 mandatory modules, of which 50 are obligatory and seven are compulsory optional modules. The main language of instruction is English. The Bachelor study program "Nursing Science" is completed with awarding of the academic degree "Bachelor of Nursing Science". Admission takes place every fall semester. The first cohort of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 1964.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The Bachelor study program "Nursing Science" is accredited for the duration of five years until September 30, 2029.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the Assessment Report.