

Curriculum Policy

Medical Course of the School of Medicine (Doctor of Medicine Degree)

The Medical Course of the School of Medicine at Asahikawa Medical University offers a curriculum with four types of programs and encourages their systematic completion: the Basic Liberal Arts Program for a broad understanding of various value systems found in medical fields, the ICM (Introduction to Clinical Medicine) Program for the cultivation of professionalism and acquisition of introductory knowledge and skills across related fields of clinical medicine and the Basic and Clinical Medicine Programs for more advanced practical knowledge and skills. The Medical Course reorganized the Compulsory Elective Courses I and II in the ICM Program, adjusting its curriculum to reflect rapid progress in basic and clinical medicine.

The Medical Course designs the curriculum and makes explicit the above policy. In addition, students are expected to attain the following:

Attitudes—A Sense of Ethics and Professionalism

- ✓ A respect for the dignity of life, understanding of medical ethics, and a positive attitude toward medical practices based on team-approach medicine.
- 1. To help understand ethical principles as medical professionals, Introduction to Medical Science I – IV are included in the ICM Program for the first year for students to enhance their systematic learning.

Knowledge—Adequate Knowledge about Medical Science and Related Fields and the Ability for Lifelong Learning

- ✓ A broad knowledge of liberal arts and basic knowledge of basic, clinical, and social medicine and understanding of the necessity of lifelong learning and its realization in order to apply this knowledge.
- 2. The classes in the Basic Liberal Arts Program, aiming to help acquire a broad knowledge on culture, society, nature, and various value systems, are optional.
- 3. For cultivation of professionalism and acquisition of introductory knowledge and skills across related fields of clinical medicine, the classes in the ICM Program are compulsory.
- 4. In order to be able to develop a self-motivated learning style and enhance active learning and a solid understanding of one's specialized field, in addition to the lecture-style and practice-style Basic Liberal Arts Program and Basic and Clinical Medicine Programs, the seminar-styled Tutorial System in Medicine I –V in the ICM Program is taken systematically beginning in the freshman year.

Skills—Holistic Medical Skills, Basic Consultation Skills, and Practical Clinical Skills

- ✓ A deep compassion and respect for patients and their families and the ability to communicate with them.
- ✓ An understanding of patients that helps them maintain and enhance their health in an appropriate manner, and basic abilities to offer clinical care
- ✓ The ability to plan medical treatments for acute/chronic medical problems on the basis of the principles of consultations and safe treatments.
- 5. Practice in Psychology and Communication, a subject in the Basic Medicine Program to facilitate medical communication based on psychological understanding, is offered in the freshman year.
- 6. In order to help understand medical principles of diagnoses and treatments based on major symptoms, Symptomatology is offered in the first year, and Tutorial System in Medicine III - IV in the ICM Program and Clinical Symptoms and Problems in the Clinical Medicine Program are linked and offered in the senior year.
- 7. In order to help acquire basic diagnostic abilities and clinical reasoning abilities necessary for bedside learning, Introduction to Clinical Clerkship in the Clinical Medicine Program and Tutorial System in Medicine V in the ICM Program that is taught in a team-based learning style are linked and offered in the senior year.
- 8. Bedside learning is offered in the fourth and fifth years by rotating all the clinical subjects, and, in the fifth and sixth years, it is offered in the form of a clinical clerkship as a required subject held on a four-week basis mainly in the basic clinical departments.

Thinking and Judgement—Problem-solving Ability, Developmental Consultation Ability, and Research Ability

- ✓ An understanding of the significance of research in basic, clinical, and social medicine, and to be able to apply it to actual medical settings, objectively collecting and evaluating scientific information
 - ✓ The ability to draw up logically and ethically valid research plans in order to spread innovative information.
9. The following subjects (the first three in the Basic Liberal Arts Program and latter eight in the Basic Medicine Program) are offered systematically in the first year: Laboratory Course in Basic Biology, Laboratory Course in Medical Physics, Laboratory Course in Basic Chemistry; Laboratory Course in Biochemistry, Laboratory Course in Human Anatomy I and II, Laboratory Course in Physiology, Laboratory Course in Pharmacology, Laboratory Course in Microbiology, Laboratory Course in Parasitology, Practice in Hygiene and Public Health, and Laboratory Course in Forensic Medicine.
10. Clinical Epidemiology is included in the Clinical Medicine Program to apply information from clinical science to research, and Medical Research Special Seminar, a seminar in the ICM program, is offered in the fourth year to help enhance the abilities of medical researchers by providing activities in which students apply various types of knowledge acquired to solving real problems.

Willingness—Ability to Contribute to Communities in Japan and Throughout the World

- ✓ The ability to understand the necessity and methodology for the contribution to domestic and global communities through medical practice and research, and an understanding of social needs related to medical treatment.
11. In order to help acquire, beginning systematically in the first year, the ability to contribute to local and international communities, the following subjects are included in the ICM Program and the Clinical Medicine Program: Community Medicine: lectures about the problems of regional medicine, especially in regions in Hokkaido, and Medicine for People with Disabilities to learn the medical needs of vulnerable people in the local area.
12. In order to help learn how to contribute to the international community through medical research, Medical Research Special Seminar is offered in the fourth year.

Policy on Evaluating Academic Achievement

1. Academic achievement will be evaluated based on examinations, papers, and classroom tasks in lectures. In seminars and practical training, it will be based on comprehensive results of tasks and papers. In Medical Research Special Seminar, achievement will be evaluated based on participation and presentations of research activities. In bedside learning, it will be evaluated based on the criteria of each department, such as rubric evaluation methods and papers.
2. Goal achievement at the time of graduation, competency-based assessments, comprehensive evaluation of knowledge, skills, and attitude will be based on the Evaluation List Corresponding to Competency in the Medical Course.
3. To improve our medical education, we continuously review our curriculum. The procedure is indicated in the Assessment Policy.

Nursing Course of the School of Medicine (Bachelor's Degree)

The Nursing Course of the School of Medicine at Asahikawa Medical University, to meet newly-arising social needs in medical and nursing sciences such as the advent of an aging society and rapid advances in medical care, conducts basic education in nursing science to produce nursing professionals with practical nursing abilities supported by a broad knowledge of liberal arts. The course also offers optional subjects for those who wish to be public health nurses and midwives.

The Nursing Course of the School of Medicine at Asahikawa Medical University offers a curriculum with three types of programs and encourages their systematic completion: General Basic Subjects, Basic Specialized Subjects, and Specialized Subjects. Specialized Subjects consist of three stages: Basics of Nursing Science, Characteristics of Nursing and Nursing Science, and Development and Exploration of Nursing Science. It also offers Community-based Integrated Care I to IV in each academic year and a Community-based Integrated Care Practicum in the third year.

The Nursing Course aims to produce practical nursing individuals with developmental and systematic education combining the teaching methods of lectures, seminars, and practical training.

We, in the Nursing Course, have designed this curriculum which makes explicit the policy above, as well as requiring the following:

Attitudes—Fulfillment of Social Roles in Nursing Based on Ethics

- ✓ A sincere attitude focusing on practical nursing rooted in high ethical standards.
 - ✓ An attitude toward nursing practices with the awareness of nurses' missions in serving their communities.
1. In order to help understand medical ethics required for nursing professionals, Introduction to Nursing Science, Communication Theory, and Theories of Lifespan Development are offered in the first year and Medical Ethics in the second year.
 2. In order to help students prepare for nursing practice as a member of a medical team Early Practical Training I is offered for first year experience in the first year as well as Early Practical Training II in the second year.
 3. In order to help students feel awe and respect for human physiology and to raise a sense of awareness and responsibility as medical professionals, the Applied Physiology Laboratory Course is offered.
 4. In order to help students acquire an appropriate attitude as nursing professionals, Freshman Seminar is offered in the first year, Clinical Training for Nurses throughout the four years and the Comprehensive Nursing Practicum is offered in the fourth year.

Willingness—Ability to Contribute to Communities in Japan and Throughout the World

- ✓ The willingness to solve problems through nursing practices and research based on social needs, related to medical treatments, health care, and welfare in Japan and communities throughout the world
 - ✓ The devotion to train themselves continually as nursing professionals.
5. In order to help students acquire learning skills required in the undergraduate course, Freshman Seminar is offered in the first year for first year experience, improving student motivation.
 6. In order to help students become interested in regional medicine and explore medical needs specific to Hokkaido, Early Exposure I and II are offered in the first and second years, giving students opportunities to practice nursing in neighboring areas and districts.
 7. In order to help students explore and learn how to support those living in their home communities, Community-based Integrated Care I – IV are offered during the four years.
 8. In order to enhance the ability to help local and overseas communities through nursing practices and research, Community Nursing is offered in the first year, English Reading Seminar in the third year and International Health and Disaster Nursing in the fourth year.

Knowledge—Adequate Knowledge about Nursing Science and Related Fields and the Ability for Lifelong Learning

- ✓ A broad knowledge of liberal arts and a specialist knowledge of nursing.
9. Various optional Liberal Arts classes in the category of General Basic Subjects are offered, such as an Introduction to Japanese Sign Language. These classes focus on understanding patients with diverse needs and aim to help students acquire a broad knowledge of society, nature, and various culture and value systems. Required classes include Freshman Seminar and Information Literacy to help students acquire learning skills and form a career vision.
 10. In order to understand human beings not only as biological organisms, but as people who exist within a society, students are required to take classes in Basic Specialized Subjects, which include classes on the human body and mind, which are offered in the first year, and classes on diseases, treatments, and pharmacology are offered in the second year. In order to understand health, medicine, and the welfare of groups of people and communities, Health, Medical, and Welfare System is offered in the third year.
 11. In order to help students acquire a wide range of knowledge on clinical care, fundamental knowledge on nursing science, and a range of subjects on the developmental features of human beings and nursing treatments, we offer in the second and third years Adult Nursing I (Health Condition and Nursing Care), Adult Nursing II (Health Disorder and Nursing Care), Gerontological Nursing I (The Elderly and Nursing Care), Gerontological Nursing II (Life Impairment in Late Life and Nursing Care), Pediatric Nursing, Maternity Nursing, and Psychiatric Nursing. To explore nursing practice in depth, we also offer as compulsory classes Home Care Nursing, Cancer Nursing, and Team Medical Care and Rehabilitation Nursing. For elective classes, we offer Dementia Care, Critical Care Nursing, Cancer Nursing II (Cancer Survivorship), Cancer Nursing III (End of Life Care). These are available in the third and fourth years. In addition, we offer compulsory classes for the public health nurse course and the midwife course, enabling students to learn both basic and advanced knowledge in public health nursing and midwifery during the four years.

Thinking and Judgment – Problem-Solving Ability, Developmental Thinking Ability, and Research Ability

- ✓ The ability to examine nursing questions and problems from a research perspective and the ability to solve these issues.

12. In order to foster critical thinking, Freshman Seminar, in which students acquire learning skills through group work, role play, presentation, etc., is offered in the first year. In the second year, Basic Nursing Skills IV, in which students practice the nursing process based on a problem-solving approach, Physical Assessment for Nursing, in which students learn how to assess patients' health status, and Health Statistics, in which students learn how to deal with medical statistics, are offered. In the third year we offer Epidemiology, in which students understand health phenomena of individuals, groups, and local communities.
13. In order to help acquire basic abilities to apply knowledge gained throughout actual nursing settings, Freshman Seminar is offered in the first year, Nursing Research in the third year, and Advanced Nursing Research in the fourth year.

Skills and Communication – Evidence-based, Practical, Basic Nursing Skills

- ✓ The skills to conduct evidence-based basic nursing practices and communication skills according to each patient's life stage and health assessment.
14. Basic Nursing I, II, III, and IV and Physical Assessment for Nursing are offered in the first and second years so that students can acquire basic nursing skills. Basic Nursing Training I is offered in the first year to help students understand patients' daily lives and nursing in general. Basic Nursing Training II is offered in the second year to provide students with opportunities to practice the nursing process.
 15. Training subjects, such as Advanced Nursing Skills I (Adult Nursing) and II (Psychiatric, Maternity, and Pediatric Nursing) are offered in the third year and Advanced Nursing Skills III (Gerontological and Home Care Nursing) in the fourth year to teach nursing skills integrated with knowledge about nursing science that has been gained though the classes in each field in the second year and to teach practical nursing abilities.
 16. The curriculum is designed for students to take the OSCE test (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) in the third year to ensure their knowledge and skills before participating in Clinical Training for Nurses. It also offers nursing training in specialized areas in the third and fourth years for individual nursing practice, so students understand the characteristics of patients' life stages and their health issues.
 17. Comprehensive Nursing Practicum; the opportunity in which students are involved in training held at night and with multiple patients, is offered in the fourth year to further improve practical nursing abilities.

Policy on Evaluating Academic Achievement

1. Academic achievement will be evaluated based on examinations, papers, and classroom tasks in lectures. In seminars and practical training, it will be based on comprehensive results of tasks and papers. In Nursing Research, the achievement will be evaluated based on participation and presentations of research activities. In Clinical Training for Nurses, it will be evaluated based on the criteria of each department, such as rubric evaluation methods and papers.
2. Goal achievement at the time of graduation, competency-based assessments, comprehensive evaluation of knowledge, skills, and attitude will be based on the Evaluation List Corresponding to Competency in the Nursing Course.
3. To improve our nursing education, we continuously review our curriculum. The procedure is indicated in the Assessment Policy.



The Graduate School of Medical Science (Ph.D. Degree)

The Graduate School of Medical Science at Asahikawa Medical University (Ph.D. degree) offers two courses: the Research Course, in which students aim to conduct cutting-edge research in their specialized fields, and Clinical Research Course, in which students foster their abilities to advance clinical research and tests. In both courses, professors in the same field of research provide individual guidance to students' research. Students are engaged in research activities in a liberal and academic atmosphere, acquiring attitudes, knowledge, skills, thinking and judgment abilities through Advanced Lectures, Advanced Medical Practice, and Advanced Experiment and Practice on a step-by-step basis according to the progress of students' research. By achieving the goal of research and writing up a doctoral dissertation, students will feel a sense of accomplishment and become motivated to continuously contribute to local communities and international societies. At the same time, through participating in a series of two-year lectures beginning in the first year (Advanced Medical Science, Foundation of Medical Science, and Medical Thesis), students can communicate with other researchers in the university and acquire the ability to carry out medical research: essential basic knowledge, broad application knowledge, and a grounding in ethics as researchers. Our comprehensive and systematic education produces individuals ready to take leading roles in supporting future medical science and meeting the needs of societies.

Although students must choose one of the two courses at first, they can switch to the other course as their research is being conducted. If found to be beneficial to their research, they can be advised by other professors at the graduate school and visit other institutes such as graduate schools and research laboratories, domestic or international, to deepen their research. Students can start their research activities at the graduate school in their first year of being a junior resident. By taking online lectures available on the website of the graduate school as well as taking lectures at our university, they can complete some classes based on their research and training schedules. The graduate school makes every effort to foster students' active learning and provide a flexible curriculum.

Academic achievement will be evaluated based on predetermined criteria in general classes, specialized classes, and a doctoral dissertation. The doctoral dissertation will be evaluated in the following procedure; examination by a dissertation committee organized by the board of the graduate school and presentation at a defense.

The Graduate School of Nursing Science (Master's Degree)

The Graduate School of Nursing Science at the Medical Related Research of Asahikawa Medical University offers a systematic curriculum that produces highly advanced medical professionals in nursing who have expertise and knowledge on health, medicine, and welfare, a high sense of ethics, and perspectives from various disciplines, so that they can conduct evidence-based practice and research in order to solve health issues.

The Master's Thesis Course offers general education subjects to help acquire basic knowledge on research, and students will develop abilities to conduct research activities through Advanced Lecture, Advanced Nursing Practice, and Advanced Research.

The Advanced Practice Course offers general education subjects and specialized subjects on cancer nursing and is designed to develop students' highly professional knowledge and practical abilities required for being a certified nurse specialist in cancer nursing and gerontological nursing, developing practical abilities in highly advanced nursing.

Academic achievement will be evaluated based on the diploma policy and the purpose and goal of each class. Evaluation targets, including oral presentations, class discussion, papers, and written tests, may vary depending on individual classes.

In order to submit an outstanding master's thesis written in an evidence-based methodology, students will be provided with appropriate advice and guidance as indicated in a research guidance plan.

The progress of research for the master's thesis and the advanced project will be checked in research plan presentations to be held each year.

Based on thesis evaluation specific criteria, the master's thesis will be evaluated and judged whether it is satisfactory.