



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 7th November, 2023

No.MER.206054/786.-

Subject: Regulatory framework of the Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Science Sectors in the State of Assam.

In the realm of Health Education sector in Assam, a number of institutes in both Government and private sectors have been set up to strengthen the Public Healthcare system.

It has been felt necessary to streamline the institutes of Nursing/Pharmacy/ Allied Health Science courses as there is a wide variation in standards of these institutes in physical infrastructure, human resources, teaching standards and learning outputs.

Therefore, with a view to develop Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Science education in the state of Assam and to bring them up to all India standard to produce the best quality graduates/ diploma holders in Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Science courses, the Government of Assam has framed the detailed norms in regard to physical infrastructure, academics, teaching facilities, etc for opening new nursing/pharmacy/Allied Health Science courses in the State.

After careful consideration, the Department has decided to adopt the following measures to bring it into fruition:

I. University Affiliation:

In the Nursing Sector there are 22 Nos. of B.Sc Nursing (3 Govt. and 19 Pvt.) and 7 Nos. of M.Sc Nursing (1 Govt. and 6 Pvt.) Institutes under SSUHS which

impart Degree/ PG level nursing education in the State. 6 institutes impart Post Basic B.Sc Nursing course. Similarly 23 GNM Schools under Govt. Sector and 54 GNM schools in Pvt. Sector are available.

In the Pharmacy Sector, total 19 numbers of D.Pharm institutes (Govt.3 and Pvt.16) and total 7 numbers of B.Pharm institutes (Govt.-1, Pvt.6) are affiliated to Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences.

In the Allied Health Science Sector, total 23 numbers of Diploma institutes (Govt.6 and Pvt.17) and total 16 numbers of Bachelor institutes (Govt.1, Pvt. 15) are affiliated to Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences.

Few Pharmacy institutes in the state are affiliated to Assam Science and Technology University as the teaching staff of Pharmacy institutes are governed under AICTE payscale.

1. For smooth functioning and to bring uniformity in administration of health science courses as mentioned above, all institutions imparting education in Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences in the state of Assam shall obtain affiliation from Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences (SSUHS).
2. In case of affiliation of Institutes to their own parent Universities/Deemed to be Universities, these Universities may be allowed to affiliate their own institutions only, subject to the following conditions:-
 - a) The admission of the students will be based upon the Common Entrance Examinations conducted by SSUHS.
 - b) Students have to clear the Exit examinations conducted by SSUHS.
3. All affiliations relating to the Pharmacy, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences courses under other State Universities of Assam are to be migrated to SSUHS (Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences) within three years from issue of this Notification.
4. This affiliation requirement shall come into effect from the next academic session.

II. Procedure for applying for new Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences Institutes:

1. The Applicant Trust/ Institute must fulfill the Minimum Standard Requirements (MSR) (ANNEXURE A) to first obtain Letter of Intent (LoI) from Directorate of Medical Education, Assam with approval of the Government for establishment of a new institute. However, it is important to note that obtaining the LoI does not guarantee the subsequent issuance of a Letter of Permission (LoP) by the Government of Assam.

2. The Institutes can then make necessary arrangements for physical infrastructure and clinical facilities, including the availability of qualified human resources as per the norms set by the respective councils and outlined in the Minimum Standard Requirements (MSR). It is important to note that these arrangements are made at the Institutes' own risk and responsibility.
3. The Trust/ institutes can then submit an application for Letter of Permission (LoP) to the Medical Education & Research Department, Government of Assam.
4. After the institute undergoes a thorough physical assessment conducted by the authority deputed by the Government, the issuance of the Letter of Permission (LoP) will be determined based on the prescribed standards. It is important to note that meeting the criteria of the physical assessment does not automatically guarantee the issuance of the LoP by the Government. The final decision will be made in consideration of the state's needs and the overall objective of strengthening the public healthcare system.
5. The Institute having LoP from the Government shall obtain No Objection Certificate from the ME&R Department for admission of students for every new academic session.
6. The Applicant institute/ Trust shall apply to Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences (SSUHS) for affiliation, provided that the LoP has been obtained from the Government.
7. SSUHS will conduct an inspection to assess the fulfillment of certain criteria, including:
 - a) Compliance with the intake capacity specified as 60 students for Diploma/Degree courses and 25 students for Postgraduate/Masters Degree courses.
 - b) Adherence to the norms and requirements of respective councils such as the Indian Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council of India, and Allied Health Science Council, etc.

It is essential to fulfill all the above-mentioned criteria and norms in order to obtain affiliation from SSUHS for the new institute.

8. Fees:
 - a) The standard affiliation fees (to be revised periodically) and other dues as per rules are to be deposited with Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences
 - b) Inspection fees, which include honorarium, travel allowance/dearness allowance, and other charges, are to be deposited with the Director of Medical Education, Assam by the applicant institute. The fee details will be provided and released by DME, Assam periodically.

III. Common Entrance Examination (CEE):

1. The Common Entrance Examination:

- a) The seats in all Government and Private institutions offering GNM, B.Sc. Nursing, M.Sc Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc Nursing, Degree/ Diploma in Pharmacy and Allied Health Science courses shall be filled through a Common Entrance Examination (CEE) conducted separately by SSUHS or SSUHS Constituted Board w.e.f. the date of issue of this OM for the respective courses.
- b) Separate merit lists shall be prepared for each stream of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences as per the norms laid down by the respective councils common for both Government and Private institutes.
- c) For GNM Entrance Examination, a Common Entrance Examination of HSLC level shall be held by SSUHS for Government and Private institutes in accordance with the norms set by the Indian Nursing Council.
- d) SSUHS to facilitate the participation of candidates from other North Eastern States and may explore the possibility of setting up of examination centres in the State capitals of North Eastern States.
- e) Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences may conduct examinations for foreign students as part of the Common Entrance Examination for Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Science Courses.
- f) The Directorate of Medical Education, Assam shall be the responsible authority for all admission, counseling, stipend, etc., related to Health science education, including Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health Sciences, etc. subject to approval of Govt. However the Directorate of Health Services, Assam shall be responsible for admission, counseling, stipend of GNM and ANM courses.

2. Eligibility for CEE:

To appear in the CEE, the eligibility criteria will be as follows:-

- a) For B.Sc. Nursing, Pharmacy (B.Pharm), B.Sc. in Allied Health Science, and Diploma in Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, candidates must be a citizen of India* and have completed HSSLC (10+2) Science with 50% marks in aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, with English as one of the subjects for General Category candidates, and 40% marks in aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, with English as one of the subjects for Reserved Category

candidates. The inclusion of grace marks will not be taken into account when determining the minimum percentage. In the case of betterment, all four subjects must be reappeared and the results should be reflected on the same mark sheet.

- i. *Foreign students may be eligible to pursue the courses, subject to meeting the criteria and receiving a recommendation from their respective countries.
- b) For GNM course, candidates must have obtained 50% marks in aggregate for General Category candidates and 40% marks in aggregate for Reserved Category candidates in the HSSLC examination.

IV. Admission:

1. The eligibility criteria for admission into Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied health sciences courses shall be as per the respective norms of regulatory authorities like INC, PCI etc. The admission to all Government and Private Institutes shall be governed by the government policy and directions given from time to time, as well as the regulations of the respective councils. The counselling for admission into Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences courses in the affiliated institutes of SSUHS both under Govt. and Private Sector shall be held by Directorate of Medical Education, Assam.
 - a) The minimum eligibility marks in entrance examinations for admission into different courses such as B.Sc. Nursing, Pharmacy, B.Sc. in Allied Health Sciences, Diploma in Allied Health Sciences, and GNM courses shall be:
 - ii. 50 percentile of marks obtained in CEE for General Category candidates.
 - iii. 40 percentile of marks obtained in CEE for Reserved Category candidates.
 - iv. 45 percentile of marks obtained in CEE for DIVYANG candidates.
 - b) The Govt. reserves the right to re-assess the minimum eligibility marks if required due to vacancy of seats, revised criteria laid down by respective councils etc. from time to time.

V. Stipend:

The applicable stipend will be paid to the students of Government institutes during their internship/clinical exposure. The amount of stipend will be as per rates fixed by Government from time to time.

VI. Management Quota Seats:

1. The Government may decide from time to time to provide Foreign students/NRI/Management Quota seats to Private Institutions as per the government policy.
2. In Private Institutes, at present 50% of seats may be reserved for Management Quota, subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria in the entrance examination as mentioned in point IV(2) above.
3. However, such quota seats shall not exceed 50% of the total seats.
4. The Govt. reserves the right to make changes in the provision of reservation as and when required.

VII. Competency-Based Curriculum:

1. The curriculum formulated by the respective councils such as the Indian Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council of India, etc., shall be adopted by SSUHS for the courses.
2. The curriculum shall incorporate subjects like English Communication, one Foreign language, Professional Ethics, Information Technology, Skill Development, Computer knowledge etc. to be prepared by SSUHS in relevance with the main curriculum of the courses.

VIII. Selection of Faculty Members:

1. Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences shall notify detailed norms for the eligibility of faculty members in Private institutes offering Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Science courses in accordance with the norms of respective councils.

IX. Periodic Continuous Education Programs:

1. Periodic continuous education programs shall be implemented for faculty members in Government and Private Institutes.
2. The content, duration, and assessment methods for these programs shall be prescribed by the respective councils.
3. The institutes shall ensure the effective implementation of these programs to enhance the quality and competence of faculty members.

X. Compulsory Pre-Registration Internship:

1. For Nursing Courses
 - a) All B.Sc. Nursing and GNM students from 2023 onwards shall have to do one year Compulsory Pre-Registration Internship like the MBBS students.

- b) After passing out, only a provisional certificate will be issued.
- c) Registration with the Nursing Council can only be done after obtaining the certificate of one year Compulsory Pre-Registration Internship.
- d) After completion of internship and clearing the Exit Examination as laid down in Section XI, the regular Pass Certificates will be issued by SSUHS with which the candidates shall be able to register with the Nursing Council for employment, further studies in the State of Assam.
- e) The internship shall be done in registered Govt. Institutions like Medical Colleges, Civil Hospitals and any other Govt./Private Hospital approved by the SSUHS under direction and supervision of SSUHS and the respective Institutes .
- f) The internship shall have Log Book Assessment along with postings as follows:

i. O&G duties	= 2 months
ii. Labour Room duties	= 2 months
iii. ICU duties	= 1 month
iv. NICU & PICU	= 1 month
v. Medicine Ward	= 2 months
vi. Surgery and Orthopaedic Ward	= 2 months
vii. Eye, ENT, Psychiatry, Dermatology	= 15 days each

2. For Pharmacy Courses:

As per guidelines issued by SSUHS and respective councils

3. For Allied Health Science Courses:

As per guidelines issued by SSUHS and respective councils

4. B.Sc. Medical Technology Courses

As per guidelines of SSUHS and respective councils

XI. Exit Examination:

All candidates who pass out from institutions not affiliated to SSUHS in the state including those from private Universities of the state as well as all other eligible candidates who have passed out from Institutes/ Universities outside the state shall have to pass an Exit Examination to be conducted by SSUHS. Only those candidates who pass the Exit Examination shall be eligible for registration under the respective State Councils. This provision supersedes all other previous provisions and rules of registration of Nurses.

XII. Renewal of Registration:

Registration of nurses, pharmacists and Allied Health Science technicians is to be renewed in every 5 years as per norms by respective councils.

XIII. Existing Government & Private Nursing/Pharmacy/Allied Health Science Institutions in Assam:

All existing institutes having obtained No Objection Certificate from the Govt. of Assam, offering health education in Assam are required to ensure full compliance with the aforementioned norms within a period of two years from the date of this notification failing which the No Objection Certificate would be revoked.

The Government reserves the right to make changes in the Notification as and when necessary which would be notified from time to time.

This will come into effect from the date of issue of this Notification.

ANNEXURE A

Minimum Standard Requirement (MSR)

The detailed norms in regard to physical infrastructure, academics, teaching facility, etc for opening of new Nursing/ Pharmacy/ Allied Health Science institutes in the State shall be applicable to both Govt. and Private institutes:

1. The party eligible as per respective norms who are desirous to open an institute shall first apply on Expression of Interest basis to Govt. through DME.
2. **Land:** To open a Nursing/ Pharmacy/ Allied Health Science institute in Assam, the applicant must ideally own the required land as per direction of the respective council in the name of the institute itself and should have permanent patta and possession

OR

If the land is leased land, the lease should be for minimum 70-90 years with the first option to buy. Such land details should be submitted at the EoI status itself.

3. **Building:** The requirement of building is clearly laid down by the respective councils as regard to size and other requirements. After the applicant has applied for EoI and obtained an NOC from the Govt., the required infrastructure should be ready in all aspects by 2-3 years of time. The laboratories, classrooms, etc must be complete and working before the institute can start a particular course. No institute can be started or run in rented premise or in leased premise having a lease of less than 70 (seventy) years.

4. **Teaching Hospital:**

- a. **For Nursing:** Societies/ Trusts/other Bodies desirous of opening B.Sc Nursing College must have its own 100 bedded Hospital equipped with all specialties and clinical facilities as laid down by Indian Nursing Council
- b. **For Allied Health Sciences/Pharmacy Institutes:** The institute applying for opening new Allied Health Science/ Pharmacy Institution must have a 100 bedded teaching hospital with X-ray clinic with Radiology/ Ultrasound/ CT Scan facilities and NABL accredited Lab.

OR

The Institute should have a MoU with a Government Hospital not below the level of District Headquarter Hospital for a specific period not less than 5 years. The number of institutes to be tied-up with the Government hospital will be regulated as per section 4(d) of this MSR.

c. For M. Pharm in Pharmacy Practice Course:

The institute applying for opening M. Pharm in Pharmacy Practice must have a 300 bedded hospital equipped with all necessary clinical facilities as laid down by PCI. The hospital will have to be owned by the institute or should have notable share in such hospital.

OR

Tie up with a teaching hospital recognized by the Medical Council of India or University, or a Government hospital not below the level of district headquarter hospital with 300 beds with clearly defined Memorandum of Understanding including housing pharmacy practice department with minimum carpet area of 30 square feet per student along with consent to provide the professional man power to support the programme.

OR

Tie up with a Corporate type hospital with minimum 300 beds with clearly defined Memorandum of Understanding including housing pharmacy practice department with minimum carpet area of 30 square feet per student along with consent to provide the professional manpower to support the programme.

Number of institutions which can be attached to one hospital shall be restricted to one and also by the student pharmacist to bed ratio of 1:10.

(d) The Teaching Hospitals for Clinical Exposure are categorized as follows:-

i. Government Medical Colleges & Hospitals- Only three institutes of each category for training besides their own nursing, pharmacy or Allied Health Sciences institute (if they have any) will be allowed.

ii. Newly Established Government Medical Colleges & Hospitals- Only two institutes of each category for training besides their own nursing, pharmacy or Allied Health Science institute (if they have any) will be allowed.

iii. For Government District Headquarter Hospitals (200 bedded and above)- Only two institutes of each category (besides their own) for training will be allowed.

iv. For Government District Headquarter Hospitals (100 bedded and above)- Only one institute of each category (besides their own) for training will be allowed.

2. **Letter of Permission (LoP) from Govt.:** After the infrastructure is ready, the institute shall apply for LoP from the Govt. in the month of January of every year. Director of Medical Education, Assam (with permission of the Government) will cause inspection of the institute and submit report to Government. LoP will be issued by the Govt. on recommendation of DME, Assam by the month of May of every year.

3. **University Affiliation:** After the institute receives LoP (NOC) from the Govt., it shall apply to the University for affiliation and the University shall, cause its own inspection following its laid down procedure. On being satisfied, the University shall provide Consent of Affiliation (CoA) to the institute and only after receiving the CoA from the University the institute shall be able to advertise and admit students for the next academic session.

The SSUHS shall notify guidelines for fulfillment of the Minimum Standard Requirements for quality education.

The Government reserves the right to make changes in the above Minimum Standard Requirements as and when necessary which would be notified from time to time.

SIDDHARTH SINGH,

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Medical Education & Research Department.