

The decision of the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Education

Tartu Health Care College

Decision of fulfilment of the secondary condition of institutional accreditation

24.08.2023

The Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Education decided to consider the secondary condition imposed on the institutional accreditation decision of Tartu Health Care College fulfilled.

Pursuant to subsection 53(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act and clauses 43.2 and 43¹ of the document *Guide to Institutional Accreditation*, established on the basis of the authorisation contained in subsection 38(3) of the Higher Education Act and subsection 24(5) of the Statutes of the Education and Youth Board, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Education (hereinafter referred to as the Council) states the following:

1. Pursuant to subsection 53(1)2) of the Administrative Procedure Act, *the secondary condition of an administrative act is an additional duty related to the principal regulation of the administrative act, and clauses (2)2) and 3) prescribe that a secondary condition may be imposed on an administrative act if the administrative act cannot be issued without the secondary condition or if issue of the administrative act must be resolved on the basis of the administrative right of discretion.* On 27.04.2020, the Higher Education Assessment Council of the Estonian Quality Agency for Education adopted the decision to approve the assessment report¹ and to carry out the next institutional accreditation of Tartu Health Care College in seven years with the secondary condition that Tartu Health Care College would submit to the Council on 27.02.2023 at the latest a report on the elimination of the shortcomings referred to in clause 13.3 of the assessment decision².
2. On 23.02.2023, Tartu Health Care College sent to the Council the following documents: 1) Overview on the follow-up activities based on the institutional accreditation report; 2) Conditions and procedure for evaluation of qualifications of teaching staff; 3) Good practice of teaching and studying at Tartu Health Care

¹ The assessment report is an integral part of the decision and is available on HAKA's website.

² The assessment report is available on HAKA's website.



College; 4) Statutes for study and research structure of Tartu Health Care College; 5) Study regulations; 6) Rules of procedure of the Research and Development Board of Tartu Health Care College; 7) Development plan 2021–2025; 8) Action plan 2021–2025.

3. HAKA invited the following members of the Committee to assess the fulfilment of the secondary condition:

Josette Denekens	Professor Emeritus, former Rector, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Marjatta Häsänen	Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Health and Wellbeing, Turku University of Applied Science, Finland
Ruud Heijnen	International Cooperation Coordinator in the Faculty of Health; Programme Director of the Master's programme in Health Care, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)

4. HAKA sent the initial report to the higher education institution on 15.06.2023, and the higher education institution responded on 28.06.2023. On 30.06.2023, the Assessment Committee submitted a report to HAKA on the elimination of the shortcomings referred to in clause 13.3 of the Council's decision of 27.04.2020. The assessment was as follows:

The shortcoming underpinning the imposition of the secondary condition	Assessment: the shortcoming has been fully eliminated
Strategic management: the planning of the development of the higher education institution is not sufficiently targeted and systemic. The development plan of the higher education institution for 2015–2020 rather takes the role of an action plan, as it lacks strategic goals that would ensure movement towards the implementation of an ambitious mission and vision. There are no measurable goals in several areas relevant to the fulfilment of the mission (innovation, research and development, internationalisation, quality of teaching).	<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The higher education institution is characterised by strong strategic management and clearly defined and measurable goals. The teaching staff is focused on achieving the goals set out in the development plan. <p><u>Suggestions for further development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy for studies between specialities could be defined more clearly.
The shortcoming underpinning the imposition of the secondary condition	Assessment: the shortcoming has been fully eliminated
Resources: the management of funds is not sufficiently aligned with the development goals of the higher	<u>Strengths</u>

<p>education institution. Risk management is inadequate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The higher education institution has a strong position for funding-related negotiations with the ministry. • The higher education institution has a modern infrastructure, e.g. the Simulation Centre. <p><u>Suggestions for further development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to expand funding sources could be intensified. Particularly with regard to the activities of the Research and Development Board at the international level. • Contacts could be intensified with both domestic and international partners in order to develop new projects and better cope with various upcoming challenges.
<p>The shortcoming underpinning the imposition of the secondary condition</p>	<p>Assessment: the shortcoming has been fully eliminated</p>
<p>Quality culture: since 2003, the EFQM model has been followed in the quality management of the higher education institution, but its implementation in the institution as a whole is not systematic and does not support the fulfilment of strategic goals at different levels (in structural units, study programmes, support systems).</p>	<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated quality management system is well aligned with the development plan of the higher education institution. • Quality management awareness is well visible throughout the higher education institution. • Support systems ensure efficient feedback and its communication to all stakeholders.
<p>The shortcoming underpinning the imposition of the secondary condition</p>	<p>Assessment: the shortcoming has been fully eliminated</p>
<p>Research, development and/or other creative activities: the higher education institution is successful in popularising research and development activities, but the strategic management in research and development and the evaluation of the performance of priority directions remain vague. The support system for research and development is inadequate.</p>	<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research directions and procedures for obtaining funding for applied research and carrying out research are clearly defined. Research is supported by the higher education institution's Research and Development Council. <p><u>Suggestions for further development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear plan on how to cope with the expansion of the possibilities of artificial intelligence in teaching could be useful.

5. Given the fact that the shortcomings underpinning the imposition of the secondary condition have been fully eliminated, the Council
Decided to consider the secondary condition imposed on the decision adopted on 27.04.2020 on the institutional accreditation of Tartu Health Care College fulfilled and to maintain in force the decision to accredit Tartu Health Care College for seven years.

The decision was adopted with 9 votes in favour. 0 were against.

6. A person who finds that his or her rights are violated or his or her freedoms are restricted by this decision may file a challenge pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Court Procedure Act. The challenge shall be filed to the HAKA Assessment Council within 30 days after the person became or should have become aware of the decision. The Council shall send the challenge to the HAKA Appeals Committee, which shall, within five days of receipt of the challenge, provide a written unbiased opinion to the Council on the validity of the challenge. The Council shall resolve the challenge within 10 days of its receipt, taking into account the reasoned opinion of the Appeals Committee. If further examination of the challenge is necessary, the Assessment Council may extend the deadline for examining the challenge by up to 30 days.

Hillar Bauman

Secretary of the Council