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# SCU NEWSLETTER



International Education and Scholar Services



## Special Feature: Discussion about Initiatives and Outlook of the SCU Graduate Programs

### 【特集】学長・研究科長による座談会

Chairman: Shohei Ohgi, President

Attendants:

- Kazuko Ichie, Director of Graduate Program, School of Nursing
- Masahiro Kawamukai, Director of Graduate Program, School of Social Work
- Isamu Shibamoto, Director of Graduate Program, School of Rehabilitation Sciences

### Characteristics of the Graduate Programs

大学院の特徴について

Characteristics of the Graduate Programs

President Ohgi: The history of our graduate programs began with the establishment of the "Graduate Program in the School of Nursing (Master's Program)" in 1998. After that, the Graduate Program in the School of Social Work (Master's Program) (2004), and the Graduate Program in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences (Master's Program) (2006) were established. In 2011, they were reorganized into three graduate programs with the master's and the doctoral programs. In order to meet society's needs, we started education in the graduate programs and have contributed to the development of highly specialized professionals in health care and social welfare and the development of each academic field and area. Please tell us about the features and concepts of each graduate program.

Professor Ichie (Director of Graduate Program in the School of Nursing): The Graduate Program in the School of Nursing has a master's program which is divided into two courses: (1) Advanced Practical Nursing Course which trains specialist nurses as advanced practitioners, and (2) Master's Thesis Course in which the students focus on writing a master's thesis as a researcher. After completing the master's thesis course, students may proceed to the doctoral program as a researcher. This was a pioneering model at the time of its establishment, but it is quite common now. Our graduate program's vision is to formulate what to do in anticipation of the next five or ten years. I would like to consider how the program should develop based on the future vision of the School of Nursing which our program belongs to.

President Ohgi: The Graduate Program in the School of Nursing has been developing human resources who lead our society and aim to balance nursing practice and research. With other universities emulating that, there is a significant issue that we need to take one step further.

Professor Ichie: I would like to fully promote the vision of fostering local practitioners who work closely in the community and human resources who can play an active role in the research field.

President Ohgi: So far, we have had more than 9,000 students graduate since the beginning of Seirei Gakuen Junior College of Nursing. Because many of the graduates are working as managers of core hospitals in different communities, it is very important for us to train specialists who can work in managing roles.

Professor Shibamoto (Director of Graduate Program in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences): The Graduate Program in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences was established in 2006 as a master's program, which started as the only graduate school specializing in the field of rehabilitation sciences in Shizuoka Prefecture. We have trained both young people and those who have some clinical experience, and many of the graduates are now playing an active role in their specialized fields. Many of those who have completed the doctoral program have become university faculty members. Our research aims to foster highly specialized professionals. We are carrying out research necessary for our society in the three fields of rehabilitation sciences (physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language-hearing therapy).

In 2020, we established the "Rehabilitation Education Course". We have begun teaching the education theories and on-site methods necessary for managers and the education methods necessary for education training. This education course is the second of its kind established in Japan, and many people have requested to take the entrance exam. In September, we held an extension lecture on the topic of rehabilitation education, which many people attended.

President Ohgi: I notice that the expansion of academics and research is progressing. Also, exchanges with foreign countries have been developing in the last few years. I think that rehabilitation in Asia is developed compared to some other countries, so I would be very happy if our university could act as a hub-like institution and share our resources with people overseas.

Professor Kawamukai (Director of Graduate Program in the School of Social Work): I have high expectations for the students of the Graduate Program in the School of Social Work. We hope for them to become highly-skilled professionals who have both advanced practical skills and an understanding of theory. Our aim is for them to become professionals who manage businesses and organizational operations, taking a leadership role in corporations and facilities. Actually, many of the graduates who have completed the master's program are actively working as managers in the field of practice. The primary purpose of the doctoral program is to train highly specialized professionals and researchers.

In the social work field, there are situations where education and research institutes are not expanding, but our students are working to acquire a degree with the aim of becoming a researcher. Social work is called "practical study", and a characteristic of this field is understanding a phenomenon that appears in society and among individuals in terms of social structure and then work in the community to address it. It is important to understand the phenomena and problems that appear in society and individuals first. The practical theory of our faculty of the Graduate Program in the School of Social Work is supported by a wealth of practical experience, and they are very good at practical, critical, and introspective consideration, which is also reflected in the education and research of our students.

President Ohgi: As the structure of our society has become extremely complex, the problems faced by children, adults, and the elderly are becoming more diverse. In that sense, I think that how social support is supported scientifically or practically is a very important focus in addition to health and medical care.

Professor Kawamukai: What is needed now is a generalist social worker with special knowledge, so I think that we will aim to develop such human resources in the graduate program.

President Ohgi: It is one of our strengths that the three graduate programs are integrated in our university.

Professor Kawamukai: Because cooperation is important, I think there are few problems that can be solved in only one field.