

July 2021, Special Edition

SCU NEWSLETTER



International Education and Scholar Services



Special Feature: Discussion about Educational Trend and Future Vision of each School

【特集】各学部の教育の動向と将来構想について語る

Chairman: Shohei Ohgi, President

Attendees:

- Eiko Fujimoto, Dean, School of Nursing
- Junko Sato, Dean, School of Social Work
- Naohito Shingu, Dean, School of Rehabilitation



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教育の動向とこれからの人材育成に向けて

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New program announcement:

**International Healthcare and Welfare Program
will open from April 2022**

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● Educational Trend and Future Professional Training

教育の動向とこれからの人材育成に向けて



Professor Fujimoto (Dean, School of Nursing): The new curriculum starting from April 2022 features the introduction of “Philosophy and History of Seirei” and “Seirei Fundamental Practicum” in the first year. Students will have the opportunity to practice at facilities that originated from the Church with human-centered approach. Another point to note in the revised curriculum is the emphasis on the community home nursing reflecting the societal needs. This will be one of the two pillars of the structural learning along with the philosophy of Seirei. Students will learn practically in their first year how Seirei has historically provided nursing care to community people living in various place, and then, they will learn the theory and specialized knowledge and skills underlying that nursing in their second to fourth years.

With the support from associated facilities, we will be providing whole person education that is integrated with the Christian spirit of love. Also, as stated in the revised curriculum, the emphasis on nursing is shifting from providing hospital care to community home care. We will incorporate the nursing practice that provides seamless care to people in every developmental stage and anywhere in the community, into our education beyond the current specialized field.

President Ohgi: I am very much looking forward to the new curriculum that promotes the re-inheritance of Seirei’s philosophy and patient-centered nursing education.

Professor Sato (Dean, School of Social Work): In 2008, the Department of Child Education and Social Work was established in the School of Social Work, which laid the foundation for a wide range of education from children to people with disabilities and the elderly. In addition, the establishment of the annexed preschool, Christopher Kodomoen, made it possible to link education with field practice. This is something unique to our university. Accredited by the International Baccalaureate (IB) officials, the Department of Child Education and Social Work will offer IB Educator Certificate Program for the Primary Years Programme from this fall. There is a growing need for a professional training with globalization in mind.



As for the Social Worker course, about half of the graduates were employed in nursing care for elderly when the course was established. However, with the times change, there became a growing expectation on social workers in the society and as a result, there are increasing number of graduates working in the medical field as medical social workers or in the local government today. Recently, building an inclusive local community is becoming a major challenge for social welfare policy. Each local government is required to build an inclusive community, which in turn brings great expectations on social workers. The curriculum has been revised to reflect that, but to realize this, quite advanced knowledge and skills will be required. I think it would be challenging for the students to acquire practical skills in addition to the certification. But luckily, our university is located close to training facilities. This would be an advantage for our students as preparation trainings can be done before the qualification training. Our students can also experience collaborative work with other professions within the campus. It is essential to work with other professions or organizations when building an inclusive local community. As we need to work together to provide comprehensive support for each user in real world, I believe that the learning experience at SCU will be an advantage for our students. We should make the most of it in our education.

President Ohgi: The inter-disciplinary curriculum beyond the framework of professions would make it possible for us to provide education and professional training that better meet the needs of society.

Professor Shingu (Dean, School of Rehabilitation): As for the School of Rehabilitation, a majority of the graduates work in medical or social welfare facilities. However, if you take into account the supply-demand balance of the employment market, it may eventually become saturated. In that case, we need to explore new fields for employment opportunities. One possibility would be a related field such as health promotion and maintenance. Another possibility would be to bring in a new perspective and apply the rehabilitation technology to other fields such as companies.



Our faculty has been involved in industry-academia collaboration since 2019, with the perspective for innovation by combining our research with the practices of the companies while seeking the opportunity for social contribution for our professions. For example, when building a house in universal design, it would save the trouble to add a handrail later if an occupational therapist was involved in the planning phase to provide professional advice. As such, house builders can be our possible option for employment. For industry-academia collaboration practice, we have collaborated with a local pharmacy Kyorindo in 2020 to create a series of movies. We carry two pillars for our industry-academia collaboration projects: “exploration” and “student-centered active learning”. When students acquire their professional skills on experimental basis, they become engaged in proactive learning and start researching and applying the information on their own. I think this is an important yet effective way to gain skills.

● Future Vision of each School

学部の将来構想、ビジョン

Professor Fujimoto: The School of Nursing is envisioning a mechanism for learning in a virtual space (virtual city) by applying Information technology. Students will apply the knowledge and skills needed for a nurse/public health nurse to the health problems of each resident of the virtual city. It would be more useful and practical if we have the involvement of Social Work and Rehabilitation Sciences to share information and knowledge as well. In practice, we are aiming to provide support for the community with the power of nursing. I believe Seirei is capable of quickly and accurately grasping the needs of the society, and reflecting that to its services. In terms of improving the quality of nursing, we will utilize the Center for Nursing Education to collaborate with clinical side to provide fundamental nursing education to improve practical skills and enrich research. I think this collaborative project with clinical side will enhance our goal of what kind of nurses we should train our students to be and what we should be aiming for.

Professor Sato: Recently, child poverty and young carer issue are brought to attention. We all know we need to take those issues affecting children seriously. We need to examine carefully how we should address the complex yet overlapped issues, and what is the role of social work professions in those issues. Furthermore, when we think about the contribution to the social welfare administration and child welfare administration of the city and the local area where we live in, it is our challenge to provide as much knowledge and skills as possible to our students in addition to the standard social worker education.

Professor Shingu: We started to offer the International Rehabilitation Course in 2019. Including the career development of the graduates, we need to create positive outcomes of the program that make the graduates satisfied to be part of the program. For that reason, we are now reviewing the curriculum of the graduate program. Regarding the community contribution, we have “Counseling room for language and hearings” run by the faculty of the Department of Speech Therapy. We know there is a need for the service, however, it is difficult to meet the need due to limited human resources. In the occupational therapy field, there is an increasing cases of consultation related to developmental disabilities. As such, we would like to start providing counseling service at the university. We know there is a need, but unfortunately we do not have service nor system to accommodate. And this is something we should address for.



President Ohgi: Building upon our founding philosophy, it is important for SCU to provide a pioneering education that reflects the needs of the society. Going forward, healthcare, medical care and welfare will pursue human well-being. I have a high expectation for each school to collaborate further in training our students to become professionals who would support the future society.



International Healthcare and Welfare Program will open from April 2022

国際保健医療福祉プログラム 2022年4月開設

Our surrounding environment is changing every day. Like the global pandemic of the infectious disease, the local healthcare and welfare is inseparable from the global environment. Seirei Christopher University will offer the International Healthcare and Welfare Program from April 2022, to help students to pursue their career as healthcare and welfare professionals in the globalizing modern society, regardless of the country or region.

In the program, students will learn systematically about international healthcare and welfare from various perspectives beyond their major studies, and learn experimentally in the overseas field trips. The program also includes a language program for the students to strengthen their language skills.

The program is designed to grow professionals who will: 1) provide healthcare and welfare services to people with various background; 2) work in a global organization or team; 3) teach skills as a professional in healthcare and welfare field in domestic or international environment; and 4) conduct research related to healthcare and welfare to contribute to the international society.

The International Healthcare and Welfare Program will provide fundamental skills to prepare the future healthcare and welfare professionals to play an active role in the international community.

