

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for University)

Kyoto Pharmaceutical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kyoto Pharmaceutical University

Overview

Kyoto Pharmaceutical University, founded on the philosophy of “Philosophia et Praktikos (Philosophy and Practice),” defines its principles and purpose as “contributing to the health and welfare of humanity based on the dignity of life by promoting pharmaceutical education and research as an advanced education and academic research institute”; “nurturing the abilities of students to think and act based on a wide range of expertise in medicine, drug design, and life sciences, as well as the skills necessary for humane pharmacists with abundant knowledge and high ethical standards based on the dignity of life”; and “cultivating human resources who can play an active role in a variety of fields, including clinical studies, drug design, academia and education, and health and hygiene.” To achieve these principles and purpose, the University has formulated a medium-term plan that sets the goal of enhancing its educational and research capabilities to foster scientific thinking, and is working to promote education and research with a focus on clinical studies. In AY2016, the University drew up a master plan to develop a long-term vision in the run-up to the 150th anniversary of its foundation. The plan includes developing and applying cutting-edge research to education with the aim of becoming “a university pursuing the cultivation of ‘pharmacist-scientists’ dedicated to advanced research and guided by the University’s founding philosophy (Kyoyaku Brand).”

Regarding internal quality assurance, the University has formulated the Kyoto Pharmaceutical University Policy for Internal Quality Assurance to realize its principles, purpose, and policies. The policy states that the University conducts self-study of its educational and research activities, makes constant improvements and reforms to enhance the quality of education based on the results, and releases the evaluation results and other information to the public. In AY2021, the University established a university-wide internal quality assurance system led by the Self-Study Steering Committee, but the committee has not effectively fulfilled its role as an organization promoting internal quality assurance. In fact, the Executive Faculty Meeting makes arrangements and hold discussions with each division, while the Management Meeting evaluates and provides feedback on the progress of the medium-term plan. In addition, the committee’s self-study remains a work in progress with notable strengths and issues based on results yet to be identified. This

issue should be addressed by clarifying the positions of the Executive Faculty Meeting and the Management Meeting in the internal quality assurance system, and ensuring that self-study activities are regularly conducted, with each division's improvement and enhancement efforts based on the results appropriately managed by the Self-Study Steering Committee.

As for the University's education, both the faculty and the graduate school have appropriately established diploma policies for each degree to be awarded, and the curriculum policies are properly designed and made known to the public. To help students acquire academic skills for active learning, such as listening to lectures, taking notes, and writing reports, the University published the booklets *Academic Skills for Kyoto Pharmaceutical University Students in 2020* and *Academic Skills for Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2021*. The University also carries out rubric evaluations and surveys at the time of graduation to monitor and assess the faculty's student learning outcomes. To assess pre-clerkships, a general evaluation form was introduced in AY2018 for students to self-evaluate the level of acquiring each learning item.

As social contribution efforts, the University provides the recurrent education, Lehmann Program, with the aim of developing leaders in the field of pharmacy. The program accepts not only the University's graduates but also those of other universities and is designed for working adults to participate as well. It is highly commendable that the program functions as a social contribution project open to the public.

There are several issues the University needs to address. First, the graduate school has not established and published the screening criteria for research outcomes on specific themes, and this situation must be corrected. The school has also failed to monitor and evaluate the student learning outcomes stated in the diploma policies. Moreover, the school's admissions policies are almost identical in describing the types of students desired in all programs, and quota fulfillment is insufficient in some programs. These issues should be addressed. In addition, the University should clarify the faculty development (FD) activities of each faculty and graduate school aimed at improving the quality of faculty members and faculty organizations and carry out FD activities related to educational improvements appropriate for each organization. With all these issues involving the graduate school, efforts should be made to improve and enhance the school's education.

In the years ahead, the University is expected to resolve each issue through internal quality assurance efforts with the Self-Study Steering Committee as a

responsible body, while further promoting distinctive initiatives to bring about further achievements.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Lehmann Program, established as a recurrent education program for pharmacists, is the University's extended certificate program open to the public, welcoming not only its own graduates but also those of other universities. It is commendable that this program is expected to serve as a social contribution project allowing participants to improve their writing skills for papers and case reports, learn the necessary qualities as site leaders, and acquire qualifications for professional and certified pharmacists, thereby contributing to the cultivation of future leaders in the pharmaceutical field.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- An internal quality assurance system led by the Self-Study Steering Committee has been established in response to the issues concerning the University's regular inspections and assessments, but the committee has not effectively fulfilled its role as an organization promoting internal quality assurance. In fact, the Executive Faculty Meeting makes arrangements and hold discussions with each division, while the Management Meeting evaluates and provides feedback on the progress of the medium-term plan. In addition, the committee's self-study remains a work in progress with notable strengths and issues based on results yet to be identified. This situation should be addressed by clarifying the positions of the Executive Faculty Meeting and the Management Meeting in the internal quality assurance system, and ensuring that self-study activities are regularly conducted, with each division's improvement and enhancement efforts based on the results appropriately overseen by the Self-Study Steering Committee.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The graduate school evaluates student learning outcomes based on dissertations and class evaluation surveys, but the connection to the diploma policies is unclear. This situation should be addressed with the learning outcomes monitored and evaluated as stated in the policies.

Student Enrollment

- The admissions policies of the Doctoral Degree in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pre-Doctoral Course in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Doctoral Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences are almost identical in describing the types of students desired. This issue should be addressed.
- The Pre-Doctoral Course in Pharmaceutical Sciences has a low ratio of 0.10 in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. This ratio should be improved with the graduate school's student quotas thoroughly managed.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The University undertakes university-wide FD and other activities to improve the quality of its faculty members and faculty organizations, but the graduate school's FD activities are carried out only as part of the faculty's activities. This issue should be addressed with the faculty and graduate school separately clarifying and conducting FD activities related to educational improvements appropriate for each organization.

Recommendation

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Pre-Doctoral Course in Pharmaceutical Sciences has not established and published the screening criteria for research outcomes on specific themes. This situation should be corrected.