

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

Sapporo Medical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Hokkaido, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Sapporo Medical University

Overview

Sapporo Medical University (hereafter, the University) succeeded the Hokkaido Women's Medical College, which was established to resolve the shortage of doctors during the Second World War and opened in 1950 as a university with a single faculty, the Faculty of Medicine, School of Medicine. The School of Health Sciences was established later in 1993. The University became a public university corporation entity in 2007 and performs educational and research activities under its philosophy of "striving to be a medical university of the highest level." Today, the University is organized into two faculties: the School of Medicine and the School of Health Sciences, and two Graduate schools based on the faculties.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, it formulated the "Second Mid-term Plan" (2013-2018) in 2013 and has been implementing improvements in line with its targets of "fostering medical personnel with a rich sense of humanity and improving medical services for the people of Hokkaido," "advancing international and leading-edge research activities," "providing information about latest research and medicine to the community" and "giving back to society through research."

The University is unique in its efforts to give back to Hokkaido residents and the world through its international and cutting-edge research findings in the Research Institute for Frontier Medicine, an affiliate institution of the University, in the field of regenerative medicine and contribute to resolving medical issues of the community by sharing research findings and medical information with Hokkaido residents through public programs and lectures in collaboration with companies and local governments, centered on its Collaboration Center for Community and Industry. It is also commendable that the University has been holding the long-term Joint Seminar on Regional Health Service with the objective to provide students with opportunities to learn about the significance of collaborating with different professionals and acquire communication and other essential skills as part of its inter-professional education program implemented jointly by the School of Medicine and the School of Health Sciences.

The University needs to address several issues, including managing student

quota in the School of Medicine, formulating the purpose concerning the fostering of human resources and degree award policies on award of degrees in the graduate schools, as well as clearly setting out the criteria of thesis or dissertation examination. It is expected to address these issues through the internal quality assurance system and work for further growth.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Organization

- In 2011, the University reorganized and consolidated the Cancer Research Institute, the Marine Biomedical Institute and other facilities into the Research Institute for Frontier Medicine. This resulted in the promotion of research in regenerative medicine and establishing corporate-funded Advanced Regenerative Therapeutics. Furthermore, the University is connecting these activities to advancement of research by working toward practical application of regenerative medicine products. It is commendable that the University has been realizing its philosophies of “advancing international and leading-edge research activities” and contributing to society through its research findings.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The University has been holding the long-term Joint Seminar on Regional Health Service as part of its inter-professional education program implemented jointly by the School of Medicine and the School of Health Sciences and conducted as a consistent program for first to fourth year students. In the program, students from each year perform three activities - basic practical training in community healthcare, medical café and community-based team medical training. It provides a platform for students to conduct clinical case-studies and eventually propose solutions for medical issues faced by the community. It is commendable that the University strives to deepen the students’ understanding about the significance of community issues and collaboration between various professions as well as improve communication and other skills required for collaboration with different professions by incorporating such active learning activities in the form of a joint program between the two schools.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University strives actively to collaborate with companies and local governments through its Collaboration Center for Community and Industry and holds many public programs and lectures based on such collaboration. These public programs spread information on the findings of research carried out in collaboration with companies and contribute medical knowledge and technology to the community, using the University's resources. It is also commendable that the University has been continuously striving to resolve the community's medical issues through collaborations with companies and the community. Its initiatives include a radio program, in collaboration with a company, through which it has been spreading information on state-of-the-art research and education for three and a half years and sharing of medical information with community residents.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- The University has not formulated the purpose concerning the fostering of human resources for each of the degrees in its graduate schools. Therefore, it should formulate the purpose concerning the fostering of human resources and the other purposes of carrying out education and research.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The degree award policy has not been formulated for each of the degrees in the Graduate School of Medicine. This should be addressed.
- The curriculum design and implementation policy has not been formulated for each of the programs in the Graduate School of Medicine. This should be addressed.
- The criteria for examination of dissertations or theses for the Master's and Doctoral thesis in the Graduate School of Medicine have not been clarified. This

should be addressed.

Enrollment

- The admission policy has not been formulated for each of the programs in the Graduate School of Medicine. This issue should be addressed.
- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the Graduate School of Medicine is high at 1.02 and should be improved.