

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

St. Marianna University School of Medicine



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for St. Marianna University School of Medicine

Overview

St. Marianna University School of Medicine (hereafter, the University) was established as Toyo Medical School in 1971 in the city of Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture. It was renamed St. Marianna University School of Medicine in 1973, and in 1977, the University established the doctoral program for medicine in its graduate school. As the only medical university in Japan with a Christian background, the University's founding spirit is "to be aware of a doctor's sense of duty based on the 'sanctity of life' rooted in Christian love for humanity, to nurture human talents capable of contributing to human societies, and to train doctors who can utilize their achievements in expert research for the welfare of humanity." Based on this founding spirit, the University has included religious studies in its curriculum, which is a unique characteristic not found at other medical universities in Japan.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, under the strong leadership of the president, the University has worked to make improvements, which were led by the Committee for Educational System Review. In this accreditation, it is commendable that the University has applied a support system for bidirectional communicative lectures as a method to enhance educational quality. This system uses IC cards in class to immediately analyze and collect students' answers to questions and automatically record their attendance. It is also commendable that the University has taken such actions as developing the Grant for Bridging Cooperation between Industry and Academia and employing full-time coordinators to help students establish venture companies from research undertaken at the University.

However, the University still has several issues to address. These include its policy on degree award in the Graduate School of Medicine, which only states the requisites for granting the degree and not the required learning outcomes, and the criteria for examining the dissertation, which are not clearly communicated to the students. In addition, although self-study is conducted via the Committee for Educational System Review, it is not based on the system the University has set in its own Standard for Self-Study. Hereafter, JUAA hopes that the University will promote its development by working to improve these issues through self-study while building a more comprehensive system.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the University, through the use of a support system for bidirectional communicative lectures, has enhanced its educational quality by conducting classes that reflect students' understanding and practice of bidirectional lectures. In particular, the Department of Medicine has introduced a support system that enables the faculty to identify students and confirm their attendance through seating information. This system helps faculty members grasp and enhance students' understanding of lectures by immediately confirming the students' answers and reflecting them in their lectures.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has proactively made social contributions by returning the knowledge acquired in research to efforts that establish new venture companies. Based on the policies regarding research activities, the University has developed the Grant for Bridging Cooperation between Industry and Academia and employed several full-time coordinators to facilitate cooperative activities between industries and academia. As a result, the number of patents and design rights acquired within the University has increased, and the University has proactively engaged in activities

based on medical care that contributes to society, such as establishing venture businesses for creating medicine, developing and selling cosmetics, and developing commercial products.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Medicine, the policy on degree award only indicates the requirements for granting the degree, but it does not indicate the required learning outcomes for degree completion. This should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Medicine, the examination criteria for dissertations are not communicated to the students. These criteria should be clearly stated in the dissertation examination manual and the graduate student handbook.

Administration and Finance

- Although the ratio of excessive carryover consumption spending for the following year to imputed income is high, the sufficiency rate of financial assets against the required reserve fund is low. As a sufficient financial basis to perform University education and research has not been established, the University should properly formulate its financial plans and make improvements to stabilize its financial foundation.