

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

Toho University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2019	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1.2020 – March 31.2027)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Toho University

Overview

Toho University (hereinafter referred to as the “University”) was founded on the philosophy of “Nature, Life, Man,” and its educational principles are “to develop and foster distinguished professionals with rich humanistic sensibilities and wide-ranging knowledge who cherish nature and humanity based on respect for nature and a profound awareness of the dignity of life and of the individual.” The University states its goal and purpose as follows: “Our goal is to teach the theoretical and applicational aspects of various specialized academic fields, conduct research, and provide students with a general education, and our mission is to nurture educated and talented individuals and contribute to the development of culture.” In order to achieve this goal, the University formulated the Re-creation in Tradition and History Toward Toho University’s Centennial—Creating a New Grand Design— in 2010 and developed a second edition in 2014. In line with this grand design, the University has established the Toho University Educational Charter which describes its vision for the coming centennial and its talent development goals. In 2019, the University formulated the Toho University Grand Design 2025 which presents nine critical success factors and corresponding key performance indicators.

In the University’s internal quality assurance structure, the University Council is given the role of promoting internal quality assurance, and four committees involved in self-study and the Verification Group work together to implement the PDCA cycle. However, the authorities and roles of the internal organizations involved in internal quality assurance, including other faculty and graduate school divisions, are not clearly defined in the rules. Although the results of self-study conducted by the Self-Study Planning and Management Committee are reported to the University Council, the council does not provide the relevant divisions with instructions for improvement based on the results. Therefore, the University should manage the respective organizations and provide support for improvement in an appropriate manner, and ensure the functionality of its internal quality assurance system.

As for education, the University organizes curricula appropriately by arranging subjects in a systematic and methodical fashion, in line with the degree award policy and curriculum design and implementation policy. The University adopts small-group seminars and training sessions, and actively provides active learning-style subjects such as group work, discussions, and small-group learning. Distinctive features of the

University include common education subjects as well as common optional subjects that can be taken by students in the Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science, and it is recognized that the University provides subjects that reflect its founding philosophy and educational principles.

As part of its social cooperation and contribution efforts, the University has implemented the Medical Accommodation Support Project, a joint project with Ota Ward for supporting family members of long-term child patients staying in hospital, and has also established TOHO IELABO, which is used for practical education in the Faculty of Nursing and the dissemination of healthcare-related information. The University engages in other high commendable social contribution initiatives leveraging its distinctive strengths in healthcare and in response to local needs and demand, such as the activities carried out at the mountain infirmary in Nishihotaka which is run by the Faculty of Medicine.

However, there are several issues that should be addressed. The Pharmaceutical Sciences (Master's Program) and Advanced Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences (Doctoral Program) in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Master's and Doctoral Programs in the Graduate School of Science have not set forth research supervision methods and schedules in the form of a specific research supervision plan, the Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Health Science allow students to gain credits for subjects they have failed when moving up to the next grade by simply taking a term-end exam without actually retaking the subjects, and quota management is not appropriately implemented in the School of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine. These issues should be corrected. The University has not yet developed methods to objectively measure the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy or appropriate benchmarks for assessing measurement results, and efforts to grasp and evaluate learning outcomes in a diversified and appropriate manner are lacking in some faculties and graduate schools. This should be improved.

Going forward, the University should clarify the authorities and roles of each organization and implement measures for improvement based on the results of self-study in order to achieve its purpose, and thereby ensure that its internal quality assurance centered around the University Council functions effectively.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Environment

- In order to enable both male and female researchers to continue engaging in research activities at their normal pace even when time is limited due to life events, Center for Diversity and Inclusion offers a program whereby research assistants are sent to provide support to them. Since the number of female researchers in superior positions (professor, associate professor) has increased, and the number of successful Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research applications is rising, the program is considered as contributing to the career advancement of researchers.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Aiming to address healthcare-related social issues, the University carries out the Medical Accommodation Support Project, which involves providing accommodation to family members of long-term child patients receiving treatment in hospital, in cooperation with the local government of Ota Ward, where its campus is located, and the business sector. In addition, the University has established TOHO IELABO, a facility that recreates the housing environment of elderly people. This facility is used for practical education in the Faculty of Nursing and the dissemination of healthcare-related information. During the summertime, the University opens a mountain infirmary in Nishihotaka which is run by the Faculty of Medicine. It is commendable that the University contributes to society leveraging its distinctive strengths in healthcare and in response to local needs and demand.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- In the University's internal quality assurance structure, the University Council is given the role of promoting internal quality assurance, and four committees involved in self-study and the Verification Group work together to implement the PDCA cycle. However, the authorities and roles of the internal organizations involved in internal quality assurance, including other faculty and graduate school divisions, are not clearly presented in the rules. The University Council does not provide the relevant divisions with clear instructions for improvement based on the results of self-study. Therefore, the University should manage the respective organizations and provide support for improvement in an appropriate manner, and ensure the functionality of its internal quality assurance system.

Educational Program and Outcome

- The Faculty of Health Science and the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Science do not present the basic ideas on curriculum organization and implementation in the curriculum design and implementation policy. This should be improved.
- Although the Departments of Biology and Environmental Science in the Faculty of Science set a limit on the number of credits students can register for in a single year, they allow students in their second or subsequent years to register for additional credits according to the number of credits they have obtained by the end of each academic year. For this reason, there are a considerable number of students who actually register for many subjects in excess of the limit. Other measures have not been implemented, and not enough is being done to give substance to credits. Therefore, the University should improve the situation in view of the purpose of the credit system.
- Some faculties and graduate schools have subjects for which the syllabi list “Attendance” as a method for assessment of academic achievement, present multiple evaluation methods but fail to describe the contribution rate of each method in quantitative terms, or lack descriptions of the feedback methods used for assessment of academic achievement. Therefore, the University should ensure that syllabi are checked properly and methods for assessment of academic achievement are described appropriately.
- The Master’s Program in the Graduate School of Science does not specify the examination criteria related to special assignment research results. Therefore, the criteria should be clearly presented.
- The faculties and graduate schools, with the exception of the Faculty and Graduate School of Nursing, have not yet developed methods to measure the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy or appropriate benchmarks for assessing measurement results, and efforts to grasp and evaluate learning outcomes in a diversified and appropriate manner are lacking. This should be improved.

Recommendations

Educational Program and Outcome

- The Pharmaceutical Sciences (Master's Program) and Advanced Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences (Doctoral Program) in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Master's and Doctoral Programs in the Graduate School of Science have not set forth research supervision methods and schedules in the form of a specific research supervision plan. Therefore, these should be established and clearly presented to students in advance.
- The Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Health Science allow students who were not able to gain credits for a particular subject to take an exam in the following or subsequent years and gain the credits by simply passing the exam without attending any classes. This should be corrected in view of the purpose of the credit system.

Student Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap and the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap have been high at 1.01 and 1.05, respectively, in the School of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine. The University should make significant improvement in faculty quota management.