

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

Dokkyo Medical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tochigi, 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 Dokkyo Medical University

Overview

Dokkyo Medical University (hereafter, the University), as part of the Dokkyo Group of Academic Institutions founded in 1951, was chartered as a college with a medical school in Mibu, Shimotsuga District, Tochigi Prefecture, in 1973. The Graduate School of Medicine was later added in 1979, followed by the School of Nursing in 2007 and the Graduate School of Nursing in 2012. At present, the University comprises of two schools and two graduate schools, and commits itself to educating and training healthcare professionals based on its founding principles of “educating medical doctors and researchers based on humanism, fostering educational policies focused on enhancing abilities, playing a role as a community medical center, and conducting medical research from an international point of view.”

Since the Japan University Accreditation Association’s (JUAA) University Accreditation in 2010, the Teaching and Learning Management Committee consisting of the president, vice president, and education officials from each school and graduate school has played a central role in developing a system that aims to enrich education and campus life through required improvements and course evaluations while pursuing reforms focusing on the globalization of medical education and community contributions.

This University Accreditation indicates that the University conducts distinctive activities, including “Breakfast Meeting” in the School of Medicine attended by students, especially first-year students, and academic/administrative staff, and “Case Study Meeting” held with academic staff members, graduate students, and graduates in the Master’s Course of Nursing, Graduate School of Nursing, and professional nurses belonging to the University’s hospitals.

On the other hand, the undergraduate schools have problems with their degree award policy and quota management, while challenges facing the graduate schools include the failure to stipulate their respective objectives in the graduate school code, inadequate descriptions on each policy, and the absence of clarified research guidance plans and thesis screening standards. These issues need to be addressed. Moreover, improvements should be made for academic staff members in the clinical field of the School of Medicine to secure sufficient time devoted to research. In the coming years, the Self-Study Committee and the Teaching and Learning Management Committee are expected to play a central role in continuously conducting

verification to operate systems that will lead to improvements, thereby further evolving as a medical and educational institution rooted in the community.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the Community Co-creation Nursing Education Center in the Master's Course of Nursing, Graduate School of Nursing, has taken the initiative in organizing a monthly "Case Study Meeting" with academic staff members, graduate students, graduates, and professional nurses belonging to the University's hospitals, with the aim of enhancing the ability to assess patients and their families as well as solve complicated and difficult nursing problems. This Case Study Meeting contributes to improving graduates' nursing skills and developing the University's hospitals by sharing and discussing nursing care practices based on actual cases while actively involved in teaching graduate students the responsibilities and roles of a professional nurse to serve the local community.

Student Support

- It is commendable that the Campus Life Committee and the Student Affairs Section in the School of Medicine play a major role in holding a weekly "Breakfast Meeting" between April and June to help new students lead a healthy life and to promote more interactions between students and academic staff members. This breakfast meeting for students, academic/administrative staff members, and graduates employed by the Universities is designed to support campus life for new students and facilitate the career planning process by enhancing communication over breakfast together. In addition, all expenses are paid by the University to continue supporting students mentally, physically, and financially in various aspects.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- The purpose of fostering human resources and the other purposes of education and research are not stipulated in each academic unit of the graduate schools. This situation should be improved.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The degree award policies in the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medicine do not specify intended learning outcomes after completing the programs. This situation should be improved.
- The curriculum design and implementation policy in the Graduate School of Medicine does not specify basic approaches to educational content and methods. This situation should be improved.
- The research guidance plans in the Graduate School of Medicine are not explicitly specified to students. This situation should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Nursing, the screening guidelines for master's theses and research papers are not specified to students beforehand. This situation should be improved by, for example, specifying these guidelines in the Graduate School of Nursing syllabus.

Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.04 in the School of Medicine. This ratio should be corrected.
- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.15 in the School of Nursing. This ratio should be improved.

Education and Research Environment

- Academic staff members in the clinical field of the School of Medicine have difficulty in securing sufficient time devoted to research due to the higher priority placed on medical consultations. Although improvement measures, including hiring medical assistants, have been adopted, further efforts are needed to improve this situation.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Based on the provisions of the Self-Study Committee, the committee itself plays a central role in establishing a self-study system, but to date, self-study has been conducted only for JUAA's University Accreditation, and the initiative to regularly engage in this activity is lacking. With improvement efforts for this issue addressed only in response to the University Accreditation's remarks, the University does not necessarily guarantee the quality of its education and research activities to society. In the coming years, improvements should be made for the University to regularly conduct self-study, before developing and operating a system that reflects the results for improvements and reforms.