

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

Hoshi University



| Basic Information of the Institution | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ownership: Private | Location: Tokyo, Japan |
| Accreditation Status | |
| Year of the Review: 2024 | |
| Accreditation Status: unaccredited | |

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Hoshi University

Overview

Hoshi University (hereafter “University”) upholds the founding spirit advocated by its founder: “Our university is a ‘cradle’ in which talents who will serve the world are fostered.” Based on this spirit, the University has established the educational and research objectives of “cultivating human character through education and research on the principles and applications of pharmaceutical sciences, thereby contributing to the advancement of healthcare, welfare, and environmental hygiene and further promoting the creation and development of culture.” To achieve these objectives, the University has established the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences comprised of the Pharmaceutical Course and the Drug Development and Pharmaceutical Science Course; the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences with the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Division of Systematic Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences; and affiliated institutes and centers through which it promotes educational and research activities.

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences have formulated and published a degree award policy (diploma policy) for each degree they confer, along with curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policy) and student enrollment policies (admissions policy), ensuring they are mutually consistent and aligned with the University’s mission and educational objectives as well as the educational and research purposes of each division. Based on the curriculum design and implementation policies, the undergraduate and graduate schools develop structured curricula and work to monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes. Specifically, the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences conducts a formative assessment of the learning outcomes using the portfolio function of the education support system START introduced in AY2018. In addition, the Pharmaceutical Course has implemented a performance-based assessment using a rubric since AY2023 to measure the extent to which the qualities and abilities set forth in the degree award policy have been attained. In AY2023, the University formulated the Hoshi University Assessment Policy and is working to operationalize the PDCA cycle for education based on the learning outcome assessment results described above. The University plans to engage in specific improvements and enhancements based on these efforts and the self-study results, thereby progressing further.

The University engages in community cooperation and contribution activities that draw on its expertise in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. Accredited as an implementation body under the continuing professional development certification system for pharmacists, the University offers a variety of training programs and has enhanced its on-demand content as part of its initiatives utilizing ICT; it has also improved access to recurrent education for pharmaceutical professionals. As for student participation, the University engages in collaborative activities with such organizations as the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Shinagawa Pharmaceutical Association, and contributes to the improvement of community health and hygiene through such initiatives as faculty members serving as school pharmacists. These are highly commendable efforts. The University has also established an institution-wide policy for internal quality assurance and promotes initiatives under the responsibility of the president. The University conducts self-studies and compiles the results into reports that are submitted as evaluation materials when applying for certified evaluation and accreditation or program accreditation. Although business plans and corresponding reports are prepared and made available to the public each year, the process of self-study that precedes the preparation of these documents is not disclosed, and the internal quality assurance system cannot be considered fully functional in the eyes of society. The University needs to make improvements by designing and establishing in advance a cycle for conducting periodic self-studies, the criteria to be used for these self-studies, and the process of implementing self-studies and improvements based on their results.

There are other areas of improvement the University should address regarding faculty organization. In AY2023, the number of professors fell short (by seven) of the statutory requirement set forth in the Standards for Establishment of Universities across the institution. Although six professors were hired or promoted in AY2024, the retirement of three professors resulted in a shortage of four as of May 1, 2024. To address this serious issue, the University hired one professor, appointed another in April 2025, and promoted one associate professor. By including executive officers who are assigned teaching responsibilities—namely, the president and the assistant to the president—the University is expected to meet the required number of professors starting in AY2025. One factor contributing to this shortage is the University's practice of automatically including executive officers, such as the president and the assistant to the president, in its count of full-time faculty members. However, the Standards for Establishment of Universities stipulates that only full-time faculty members and professors assigned teaching duties can be counted toward the required number. As of September 2024, the assistant to the president was not assigned any teaching duties and therefore did not satisfy this

requirement. The University subsequently reviewed the matter internally and took corrective steps to ensure that its executive officers were assigned classes so as to fulfill the statutory requirement. Going forward, the University should ensure an accurate understanding of the statutory requirements and appropriately structure the faculty organization necessary for education and research in accordance with the curricula of the undergraduate and graduate programs. A similar issue was noted in the certified evaluation and accreditation results in 2017, when the number of professors fell short of the requirement based on the student enrollment cap. Although the University subsequently met the required number, the current evaluation and accreditation review has again identified a continuing shortfall of professors over the years. The University is strongly urged to comply with the statutory requirement, formulate a sound faculty staffing plan to ensure the necessary number of faculty for education, and structure its faculty organization systematically in accordance with the plan. In light of these ongoing issues, it can be concluded that the University's internal quality assurance is not functioning effectively. From the standpoint of compliance, the University is strongly encouraged to conduct proper self-studies and take the necessary steps to ensure the quality of its education.

In addition, the certified evaluation and accreditation results in AY2017 pointed to the student enrollment cap that had been exceeded in the Drug Development and Pharmaceutical Science Course in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and a similar issue was again identified in AY2023. It is necessary to rectify this situation by enhancing and fully operating the internal quality assurance system, including the establishment of a reliable method of self-study.

Going forward, the University is expected to enhance and fully implement its internal quality assurance system under the leadership of the president, ensure compliance with statutory requirements through these efforts, and promote the improvement and enhancement of the quality of its educational and research activities, thereby advancing its institutional development.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- As an implementation body for the Certified Pharmacist Training System accredited by the Council on Pharmacists Credentials, the University centered on the Lifelong Learning Support Office for Pharmacists offers a wide range of programs, not only

for continuing education for pharmacists but also practical training in the latest skills and techniques required for home healthcare, the development of pharmacists specializing in cancer treatment and palliative care, and courses offered in collaboration with nonprofit organizations and academic societies. In addition, video recordings of various lectures and other events are archived and developed into on-demand content to meet the learning needs of working professionals and individuals in remote locations. These initiatives are commendable as they support lifelong learning and professional development for pharmacists and foster highly specialized pharmacists.

- To realize Hoshi University Vision 2025-2030's goal of serving as a regional hub of academic activity and cooperating with industry and government while respecting their missions and roles, the University co-hosts the "Medicine and Health Fair" with the Shinagawa Pharmaceutical Association and Shinagawa Ward Office, where students participate in providing health checkups and consultations for local residents, thereby contributing to greater awareness of the need to promote community health and offering students practical learning opportunities. Furthermore, it is commendable that the University contributes to promoting community health and improving the local public health environment through such initiatives as faculty members serving as school pharmacists at junior high and elementary schools in Shinagawa Ward and holding classes on how to take medicine. It is also commendable that the outcomes of these activities are presented in research bulletins published by local school health associations and boards of education, thereby further enhancing the accuracy of knowledge about medicine.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The curriculum design and implementation policy needs to be improved as neither the faculty nor graduate school has presented a basic concept on curriculum implementation.
- The Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences monitors and evaluates learning outcomes through such methods as course grades and screening of theses and dissertations, but the relationship between these methods and the learning outcomes

stated in the degree award policy is unclear and improvement is required.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- Faculty development activities aimed at improving graduate education are not implemented. It is necessary to ensure that such activities are appropriately carried out across the master's course and the doctoral course or within each division.

Recommendation

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the University conducts self-studies as a procedural requirement for certified evaluation and accreditation and program accreditation, these activities are primarily focused on preparing reports, and substantial self-studies are not effectively carried out. The University Accreditation Committee is designated as a body responsible for promoting university-wide internal quality assurance and improvement efforts as well as providing feedback from an institutional perspective to the organizations conducting self-studies. But in practice, the committee merely compiles the self-study results submitted by each organization and fails to implement the initiatives stipulated in the relevant regulations. Issues identified as university-wide challenges based on the self-study results are actually addressed by the Staff Meeting, an advisory body to the president, in collaboration with the relevant divisions. Improvement is required to ensure the functioning of the university-wide PDCA cycle through reviewing the roles of the organizations responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, implementing periodic self-studies, and establishing a feedback mechanism to provide results-based inputs to each division.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.25 in the Drug Development and Pharmaceutical Science Course in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. This should be corrected through thorough student quota management at the faculty level.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- As of September 1, 2024, the University fell short of the number of professors (by two) required under the Standards for Establishment of Universities. However, this statutory requirement is expected to be met starting in AY2025 through faculty recruitment and promotion as well as other related measures. Notably, a similar shortfall was identified in the previous certified evaluation and accreditation results, and despite temporary compliance, the number of professors has remained insufficient over the years. It is strongly urged that the University formulate a sound faculty staffing plan, and maintain and develop its faculty organization in accordance with the plan.