

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

Wakayama Medical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Wakayama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016 – March.31.2023)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Wakayama Medical University

Overview

Wakayama Medical University originated in 1945 as Wakayama Prefecture School of Medicine. In February 1952, Wakayama Medical University (hereafter, the University) was founded as a university with a single faculty, the School of Medicine, and later added the Graduate School of Medicine in 1960. In 2004, the University reorganized its nursing program (a two-year program) and established the School of Health and Nursing Science. In 2008, the University established the Graduate School of Health and Nursing Sciences as well as the Graduate Program in Midwifery. The University has developed its education and research activities on its two campuses, both in Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the University has established a system for improvement in which the Committee for University Evaluation plays a central role. In particular, the University has made efforts to achieve its main purpose “as a public medical university in charge of the core of community healthcare, devoted to improving standards of education, academic research, and medical treatments, and responsible for raising and maintaining their standards.” Moreover, Wakayama Prefecture, the founder of the University, has established a university corporation evaluation committee, which has reviewed and evaluated the University. With these systems, the University has worked toward improvements and reforms, such as improving the curriculum and clarifying the process for faculty and staff promotions.

The University contains unique characteristics. In particular, many notable achievements have been attained as it has worked for social cooperation and social contributions.

However, the University still has several issues to address. There has not been a single academic program, undergraduate or graduate, that has stated its own purposes in their rules and regulations. The School of Medicine has not clearly defined credits for each subject. The Graduate School of Medicine has not sufficiently informed students about its research guidance plans. The doctoral program of the Graduate School of Medicine and the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Health and Nursing Sciences have not clearly shown their criteria for examining dissertations. Hereafter, JUAA hopes that the University will resolve these problems and promote its growth by enriching its internal quality assurance and working for its unique self-study activities.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has achieved its purposes through a variety of social cooperation and contribution activities. For instance, the Research Center of Sports Medicine and Balneology has made considerable achievements in its medical research utilizing hot springs. The University has also offered medical services to the local population in need by sending doctors-in-training to hospitals that have established research centers. Also, the Medical Center for Health Promotion and Sports Science has conducted medical research focusing on the prevention of lifestyle-related diseases. The University has conducted training instruction using the center’s facilities and has offered medical check-ups in the center’s clinic.
- It is commendable that the University has taken action on social cooperation,

realizing its purposes with a number of achievements. In particular, directing its attention to the needs of local companies, the University has held social events for various kinds of industries and businesses to interact with each other and has conducted matching between seminal ideas (“seeds”) produced at the University and their practical applications. The University has also vigorously participated in the “Wakayama Consortium of Medical Equipment Development,” aiming at the development of medical equipment with companies in the community. Moreover, it has finalized cooperation agreements with various companies. The consortium has led to the development of medical equipment and its achievements have been presented abroad.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- The purposes for each faculty have not been stated in the University’s rules and regulations. This should be improved.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In terms of syllabi, some subjects remain ambiguous with regard to the standards for grading in the School of Medicine and the School of Health and Nursing Science. The syllabi in the School of Health and Nursing Science also vary in their specificities. In addition, the syllabi in the Graduate School of Medicine contain information about the content of the lecture and subject but fail to include information about the purpose of the subject, learning objectives, lesson content and teaching methods, homework, the schedule, or standards for grading. This situation should be improved, so that the syllabi can help students learn.
- In the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Medicine, research instruction plans have not clarified to its students sufficiently. This should be improved.
- The master’s and doctoral programs of the Graduate School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Health and Nursing Sciences have not clearly informed their students of the criteria for examining theses. The criteria should be clearly stated in student handbooks such as “Graduate Student Handbook.”
- In the doctoral programs of the Graduate School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Health and Nursing Sciences, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the University before completing the dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the University. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having a doctoral program, the University should create measures to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.02 in the Faculty of Medicine. This should be improved.