

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

Aino University



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

## Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Aino University

### Overview

Aino University (hereafter, the University), whose parent organization was Aino Gakuin Foundation (consisting of a junior college, a specialized training college, and a senior high school), was established in 2004 as a medical college with a single faculty, the Faculty of Healthcare Science, in Ibaraki-shi, Osaka Prefecture. The University established the Department of Medical Engineering in 2010 and the Graduate School of Nursing in 2015. Currently, the University has one faculty with four departments, and one graduate school (for the master's program).

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the University made efforts to foster human talents in the fields of health care and welfare by stabilizing the fiscal base, enhancing liberal arts subjects, and energizing faculty members' research activities. As a result, the University has made efforts to improve its fiscal situation, has offered curriculum with a wide range of basic subjects to freshmen since 2016, and has reorganized research centers as well as budgeted "Special Research Fund" for young faculty members.

In this accreditation review, the characteristics of the University were seen in university-wide required subjects such as "Sym-medical Theory," "Medical Ethics," and "The Basis of Learning"; the establishment of the "Faculty of Healthcare Science Education Financial Incentive Fund"; and the creation of a system of reflection through the "Class-in-Charge Self-Study Sheet." In particular, in "Sym-medical Theory," which is a common subject in all the departments in the Faculty of Healthcare, students not only think about their roles as specialists, but also learn about team medical care. It is commendable that the subject helps students to smoothly proceed to on-the-job practical training and also realizes the mission of the University.

However, the University still has several issues to address. JUAA hopes that the University will improve such issues as the disparity in the quality of its syllabi, organizational faculty development (FD) activities, self-study, enrollment cap management in the Faculty of Healthcare Science and insufficient manifestation of the examination criteria for the dissertation in the Graduate School of Nursing. Also, as for the University's finances, well-planned and concrete actions are required to stabilize its balance sheet.

JUAA hopes that from this point forward, the University will not only stipulate clear policies for education and the other activities, but also will develop as a medical educational institution rooted in the community. This can be accomplished through the use of the review system built into 2016, through which it reviews plans and practices for policy-based actions,

### Notable Strengths

#### *Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome*

- It is commendable that the Faculty of Healthcare Science offers a subject that not only enables students to think about their roles as specialists, but also learn about team medical care, and helps them to smoothly transition to on-the-job practical training. In particular, to realize one of the ideals in the University's academic foundation, "Not only to care but also to give comfort to the patients," the Faculty requires students in all departments to take "Sym-medical Theory," a subject that teaches cooperation among diverse professions. In this course, co-instructed by multiple faculty members, students handle real cases, under the guidance of third-year students in each department (in the case of the Department of Medical Engineering, fourth-year students), and conduct cross-disciplinary group

discussions that involve several departments.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome*

- Although syllabi are written in the same style across all the faculty and graduate school, some class lacks the necessary contents, such as the methods of assessment. The University should improve syllabi to facilitate students' learning.
- The Graduate School of Nursing does not implement systematic training and study for improving the educational content and methods employed in the graduate school. This should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Nursing, criteria for examining degree-seeking thesis have not been stated for students. This situation should be improved, by clearly stating them in the student handbook.

### *Enrollment*

- In the Faculty of Healthcare Science, the average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is high at 1.23 in the Department of Nursing, 1.22 in the Department of Physical Therapy, and 1.20 in the entire faculty. Also, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.23 in the Department of Nursing, 1.23 in the Department of Physical Therapy, 1.21 in the Department of Occupational Therapy and 1.21 in the entire faculty. Moreover, there are no transferring students in the Department of Nursing. The Faculty should manage student enrollment appropriately.

### *Administration and Finance*

- Although the University has made efforts to improve its financial situation by formulating its mid- and long-term management plan, it has not established a stable financial basis due to the fact that the balance sheet ratios have not improved sufficiently, and the sufficiency rate of financial assets against required reserve fund remains low. It is expected that the University will continuously make an effort to stabilize its financial basis by formulating a financial plan with concrete numerical targets.

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- While the Internal Quality Assurance Committee (headed by the vice president) is supposed to conduct self-study regarding the appropriateness of various university activities, reviews in each department and self-study of the entire university are not well coordinated. Furthermore, the University does not work towards improvements based on the results of self-study of the entire school. The University should review the planning and practice of various activities that are based on the policies and achieve improvements to make the internal quality assurance system more functional.