

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

Chiba Prefectural University Of Health Sciences



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Chiba, 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 Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences

Overview

The Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences (hereafter, the University) was established in 2009 as an educational institution with a single faculty, the Faculty of Health Care Sciences. The purpose of the University is to foster health-care specialists through the reorganization and building of the Chiba College of Health Science as well as the Chiba Prefectural College of Allied Medical Science. While the Department of Nursing, the Department of Nutrition, and the Department of Dental Hygiene have conducted their education and research activities on the Makuhari Campus in Chiba-shi, Chiba Prefecture, the Department of Rehabilitation has conducted its education and research activities on the Nitona Campus in the same city. In March 2013, the University graduated its first class.

This is the first accreditation for the University by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA). Since the University's establishment, it has made notable local contributions and has introduced unique educational content for fostering specialists who can cooperate across multiple professions. JUAA takes into account the vigorous work that faculty members and students at the University have accomplished towards education and research activities.

However, the University still has several issues to address. For example, the University has not made sufficient efforts for self-study, nor has it built a system for internal quality assurance. In addition, the process of decision making with regard to administrative operation is unclear. Since the University has consistently failed in its long-term missions, such as integrating its campuses and establishing a graduate school, it is imperative for the University to reinforce its cooperation with the prefecture and to resolve various problems.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the University provides unique educational content which aligns with its purpose of fostering persons of talent. For example, required "Special Topics" for fostering "healthcare specialists in Chiba Prefecture" start with the Hands-on Seminar (1st year), where students study local characteristics through communications with prefectural residents. In the second year, students continue with Wellness in Chiba Prefecture in order to gain an understanding of health policies while taking local issues into consideration. Finally, students study Collaboration Among Professionals (4th year) to learn, in cooperation with other departments, a practical methodology for supporting healthy lifestyles.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has its own dental clinic for the practical training of students. It has accepted numerous patients annually not only from Chiba City, but also from broad areas of Chiba Prefecture, making contributions to the oral health of local residents.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- Statements of the University's mission and purpose are not used in a consistent manner. The statements of the University's mission and purpose differ partially in title and content depending on the publication medium, and similar statements of mission and purpose are listed on the University's website. In order to establish a well-organized and comprehensive presentation, the University should construct a system to assess its mission and purpose and should improve these through regular examination.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The number of professors across the entire university has been below the legal requirements for two years since the completion year of the establishment plan. Given this fact, the University should manage the number of professors according to the personnel management plan, and should establish a workable review system to regularly examine faculty organization.
- The curriculum design policies in the Department of Nutrition, the Department of Hygiene, and the Division of Occupational Therapy in the Department of Rehabilitation in the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences only describe current situations and do not indicate the basic ideas on educational content and method of education. The University should set up a mechanism to constantly examine curriculum design policies, and should reconsider the contents. Furthermore, it should improve the ways in which these policies are presented on the University website.

Enrollment

- In the Department of Nursing in the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, the ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.60. This number should be improved.

Education and Research Environment

- The University's gymnasium on the Nitona campus needs seismic retrofitting, while the systems for maintaining facilities, equipment, appliances, and supplies and for securing safety and good sanitary conditions are underdeveloped. The University should formulate policies for the education and the research environment as well as system for implementing and reviewing these policies.

Administration and Finance

- The staff development (SD) workshop for administrative staff is insufficient. The workshop should be enriched so that staff are able to learn specialized knowledge effectively.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Certain educational information that is legally required to be disclosed, including information about academic degrees and academic records of several faculty members, are insufficiently publicized. Also, the policies on degree award are not clearly stated on the University's website. The University should actively disclose

necessary information in a comprehensive manner and improve its procedures for publicizing information.

Area of Serious Concern

Administration and Finance

- The manners in which important issues are decided at the University is unclear, and the relationship between the University Operating Committee and the other organization including faculty councils is also unclear. The University lacks an organizational mechanism for deliberation and decision making regarding budget requests from the prefecture and budget allocation. The University must manage the budget independently, and should make immediate improvements for proper the operation of the university.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Internal quality assurance is not well established. For example, the division of roles between the Self-Evaluation Committee, which plays the major role of internal quality assurance, and its two subcommittees are unclear. In addition, the division of roles between the Governing Board and other organizations is not clear, and there is a discrepancy between the responsible body and the current circumstances of the University. Furthermore, self-study of the entire university did not take place until the University applied for this accreditation, and regular reviews of various activities has not been sufficient. The University must work for achieving responsible internal quality assurance.