

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

Fukui Health Science University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukui, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Fukui Health Science University

Overview

Fukui Health Science University, founded on the spirit of “nurturing practical and motivated medical technicians,” defines its purpose as “teaching advanced healthcare knowledge and skills, cultivating professionals with practical skills, and producing human resources supporting the health of local residents as a university indispensable to the community.” The University’s predecessor nursing school was established on the premises of a hospital, and since its opening in AY2017 the institution has undertaken educational and research activities as an arm of a comprehensive medical and welfare group covering medical care, nursing, welfare, health, childcare, and education. It is notable that the University takes full advantage of this environment to provide practical education and create opportunities for students to organically learn team medicine, including comprehensive community care.

The University’s clinical training adopts specific teaching methods using the group hospital, comprehensive support center, and other facilities as well as promotes education with a focus on student cooperation in the Department of Rehabilitation and the Department of Nursing. These approaches are expected to produce positive outcomes in the coming years. In terms of curricula, the two departments have systematically organized lesson subjects appropriate for each degree program based on their curriculum policies. To promote social cooperation and contribution activities, the University has established the Community Health Education Promotion Committee to undertake support projects aimed at addressing local residents’ health concerns, improving their well-being, and upgrading the quality of healthcare professionals. The University is expected to further promote these activities based on its guiding principle and purpose.

As for the University’s internal quality assurance, the Self-Study Committee has been established as a promotion organization, but no records are kept for verification by a third party regarding the planning steps of the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle serving as the foundation of internal quality assurance as well as the committee’s reviews and improvement efforts following the reports from each division. This situation indicates that the University’s internal quality assurance system is far from functioning effectively. The University should reexamine the internal quality assurance structure led by the committee and improve the mechanism

for recording the internal organizations' (divisions) PDCA cycles to promote university-wide internal quality assurance. In addition, the University should promptly undertake institutional research (IR) and system development, as collecting and analyzing internal data are important to assure the quality of education.

There are several other issues the University needs to address. First, the University has been unable to establish a solid financial base to sustainably carry out its educational and research activities, due to the preparation of its opening in AY2017, including the recruitment of full-time faculty members. This issue needs to be addressed by steadily enrolling students. Next, the Master of Health Science, Graduate School of Health Science, has not specified the basic concept of curriculum implementation in its curriculum policy. In addition, some faculty departments have low ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap and a low average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years. Moreover, the University conducts faculty development (FD) activities through the FD Meeting to enhance the quality of its faculty and faculty organization, but the Graduate School of Health Science has failed to implement its own FD activities. These issues should also be addressed.

Following the results of its first JUAA certified evaluation and accreditation, the University is expected to revamp its internal quality assurance system to assure the quality of education with steady improvements. The University is also expected to enhance its distinctive features by ensuring the implementation of internal quality assurance initiatives.

Notable Strengths

Educational and Research Structure

- The University established as a nursing school on the premises of a hospital takes advantage of serving as an arm of a medical and welfare group operating hospitals and welfare facilities as well as childcare and sports medicine services to provide practical training and other programs in various locations offering comprehensive medical care services. It is commendable that the University is providing an environment where students can organically learn team medicine, including comprehensive community care, with a view to realizing the founding spirit of “nurturing practical and motivated medical technicians.”

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Self-Study Committee plays a central role in establishing the internal quality assurance system, but in the improvement and enhancement process, instructions are issued by the committee and the Board of Directors and Management Meeting. The deliberation and decision-making process is also unclear with documents on deliberations, agenda items, and reports mixed up in the meeting minutes. In addition, the task of the Self-Study Committee is limited to asking each division to consider improvement measures and timeframes. This situation indicates that the internal quality assurance system is far from functioning effectively. In the years ahead, organizations involved in internal quality assurance should be structured to effectively operate the system, thereby ensuring that improvement and enhancement measures are undertaken based on the self-study results.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Master of Health Science, Graduate School of Health Science, has not specified the basic concept of curriculum implementation in its curriculum policy. This issue should be addressed.

Student Enrollment

- The Department of Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Science, has a low average ratio of 0.86 in freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years and the same ratio in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. These ratios should be improved with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The graduate school has not conducted its own FD activities for educational improvements. This issue should be addressed with the graduate school's FD activities appropriately implemented.

Recommendation

University Management and Finance

- The University's balance sheet for operating activities plunged into the red with the recruitment of full-time faculty members for its opening in AY2017, and the ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund is also low and trending downward. This situation indicates that the University has been unable to establish a solid financial base to sustainably carry out its educational and research activities. As student enrollment is generally steady and personnel expenses are expected to be reduced systematically, the University is recommended to improve its balance sheet by formulating and implementing a medium- to long-term financial plan that includes specific numerical targets and measures to achieve the medium-term plan.