

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

Osaka Medical College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2013	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Osaka Medical College

Notable Strengths

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that the educational content of the Faculty of Medicine consists of the systematic combination of several components, which has developed over years. For example, its educational content combines the PBL Tutorial, CTB/OSCE (common examinations), and the Clinical Clerkship. Among these, third and fourth year students take the content-heavy PBL Tutorial. The Faculty of Medicine sets up the goal of “Development of Clinical Reasoning Skills,” trains tutors, effectively utilizes self-teaching hours, facilitates active discussions, and introduces courses involving the practice of clinical skills. It has also established the “Committee for the Improvement of the PBL Tutorial,” and has been making comprehensive efforts to refine the program. The Faculty of Medicine has continuously improved the PBL (Problem Based Learning) Tutorial program for the last eleven years.

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that the University is promoting international cooperation and societal contributions. For the purpose of “training healthcare professionals who can responsively perform in any place regardless of international borders,” the University, together with the Medical School Hospital, has actively engaged in international exchange programs mainly through the Nakayama International Center for Medical Cooperation. The University has also held the annual International Exchange Symposium since 2003, exchanging information on medical education and medical research with participants from the United States, Russia, and other countries. It has signed exchange agreements with multiple medical universities abroad such as the University of Hawaii and China Medical University, and has regularly sent and received students and professors. The University has also been active in participating in the project of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and dispatching international research teams.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and purpose

- The purpose of development of persons of talent and other purposes of education and research for the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Nursing are not clearly defined in the University regulations or equivalent rules. This should be improved.

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- The Graduate School of Medical Science does not define the required knowledge and skills for completing the program in its degree granting policies. In addition, although the graduate school defines policies for designing and implementing the curriculum, basic ideas on educational content and methods are not stated. This situation should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Medical Science, the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations have not been clearly stipulated. This

should be improved by clearly stating the criteria in the student handbook (and other handbooks) to make them accessible to students.

- In the Graduate School of Medical Science, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the university before completing their 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 not an appropriate use of the system and should be corrected. The University needs to reconsider the ways to deal with this problem, and in accordance with the purpose of having course-based doctoral program, the university should also create measures to ensure degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- Both the average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the current ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.03 in the Faculty of Medicine. The numbers should be improved.

Student support

- There is no office that deals with career support in the Faculty of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medical Science. After the student earns his or her medical license, the University does not offer any career guidance, and leave the pursuit of students' career paths with them based on their own choices. The University should offer systematic career guidance and support.

Administration and finance

- The University should formulate a mid- to long-term financial plan to implement the entire reconstruction of the aging affiliated hospital and the introduction of an electric medical record system.

Internal quality assurance

- Separate committees have conducted self-studies and evaluations without systematic and regular involvement of the University at large. In addition, the process of the self-studies and evaluations has not been clearly defined. The University should set up a clear procedure to reflect the results of evaluation in its subsequent improvements. The University is expected to create a university-wide system of self-study and evaluation to enable regular and systematic self-study and evaluation of the University as a whole.

Area of Serious Concern

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- In the Graduate School of Medical Science, a research guidance plan has not been formulated. The plan should be formulated so that students can receive appropriate research guidance and direction for writing the degree thesis according to the plan.
- Regarding the approval of previously acquired credits, since the Graduate School

Regulations clearly state that the University Regulations apply to each case, an appropriate credit count should be set according to the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools, and this should be clearly stated in the Graduate School Regulations.