

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

Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, 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 Osaka University for Health and Sports Sciences

Overview

Osaka University for Health and Sports Sciences (hereafter, the University) was established in 1965 as a institution with a single faculty in the field of health and sports sciences in the Kansai region. The University was based on Namisho Gakuen, a legally incorporated educational institution and in 1989 its campus moved to Kumatori town, Osaka Prefecture. The University established a master's program in 1992 and a doctoral program in 2001, and partially reorganized its junior college to establish the School of Health and Welfare Sciences in 2003. Currently, the University has two faculties, the School of Health and Sports Sciences and the School of Health and Welfare Sciences, as well as one graduate school, the Graduate School of Sports and Exercise Sciences. The University has conducted vigorous education and research activities in the fields of physical education, lifelong sport, and health and fitness promotion while considering modern changes and requirements, based on its founding spirit: "cultivating mind, virtue, and body through ceaseless effort in order to serve society."

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University has conducted reviews and evaluations for this accreditation, primarily through the Self-Study Committee, and also through the "Midterm Goal and Plan for Osaka University for Health and Sports Sciences" (hereafter, the Midterm Plan). However, the "Annual Report on Self-study," which is supposed to be published every other year, has not been published since 2010, and the Self-Study Committee does not appear to function properly. It is expected that the University will continuously conduct the review.

The University has made some notable efforts for improvement. For example, many of the students have been connecting to the community by participating in volunteer activities through seminars or club activities. Furthermore, the University has supported the improvement of basic academic skills through detailed learning support for students.

However, the University still has several issues to address. The University does not have separate policy on degree award, curriculum design policy, or the admission policy to the master's and doctoral programs in the Graduate School of Sports and Exercise Sciences. In addition, the University has not made the criteria for examining theses clear. It is expected that the University will improve the policies and systems of its graduate school.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to improve the academic skills of its students and has made its career education support more functional. By focusing on the improvement of graduate employment rates, the University has made comprehensive attempts to facilitate students' voluntary efforts. For example, in addition to "Career Festa" (Career Week), during which students are expected to learn the skills they will need for job hunting and competencies for working persons, the University has encouraged its students to make notes on career planning, hourly learning records, and learning review. In addition, the University has set up a learning support lab that offers not only support for improvement of basic academic skills, but also provides academic support for highly achieving students as they endeavor to pass various qualification examinations such as the teacher licence and the civil service examinations.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made use of faculty diversity in its efforts to contribute to society. Since 2012, the University has promoted social contributions, such as lifelong sports, by establishing the university-wide “Student ‘Dream’ Project,” where budgets are allocated to students’ volunteer activities that are overseen by faculty members. Moreover, most students make connections with the community, including senior citizens and children, by participating in volunteer activities for local residents and through their seminars and club activities.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The Graduate School of Sports and Exercise Sciences does not have a separate policy on degree award, nor does it have a curriculum design policy for the master’s and doctoral programs. The curriculum design policy in the Graduate School of Sports and Exercise Science only defines the abilities to develop and foster talent but does not include a perspective on the design and implementation of curriculum. This should be improved.
- In the School of Health and Welfare Sciences, the maximum number of credits first-year students can register for has been set at 50, at 56 for second-year and upper-classmen, with no maximum limit for transfer students. This should be improved according to the purposes of the credit system.
- In the Graduate School of Sports and Exercise Sciences, the criteria for examining theses are not clearly stated. This should be improved, and the criteria should be clearly stated in the graduate student handbook.

Enrollment

- The Graduate School of Sports and Exercise Sciences does not have separate admission policies for the master’s and doctoral programs. This should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- The University has not established a sufficient financial basis, nor has it indicated concrete financial objectives. In addition, the situation whereby the financial imbalance of the affiliated school affects the entire corporation has not improved. The University should set numerical targets for improvement and formulate midterm and long-term financial plans in order to work towards restoring financial viability.