

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

Kanagawa Dental University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kanagawa Dental University

Overview

Kanagawa Dental University (hereafter, the University) was established in 1964, preceded by Tokyo Women's Dentistry Training School founded in 1910, which was later promoted to Tokyo Women's Dentistry Vocational School and then Japan Women's Health Junior College. It is a single faculty university comprising School of Dentistry and Graduate School of Dentistry. Located in Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture, the University conducts educational and research activities based on its founding spirit of “love and respect for all forms of life.”

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the University has been striving for educational reform based on its educational philosophy and three policies in 2013. It has abolished the *kozasei* (Chair system) in its undergraduate school and set up a new comprehensive educational unit responsible for policies on education in dentistry. The graduate school was reorganized into one area of specialization from two and the University is working toward branding aimed at continuous improvement in quality assurance in education and development of human resources.

As part of the University's cooperation with and contribution to society, it provides information for identity verification conducted by the Disaster Relief Medicine/Dentistry Unit and cooperates in holding training lectures and practical training courses for police dentists and police forensic experts. It also set up the Yokosuka-Shonan Disaster Health Emergency Research Center to develop Odontology for Disaster Relief Medicine/Dentistry and is strengthening it as a base to train dentists who can help immediately at the time of disaster. Moreover, it has established the University Center of Legal Medicine, Kanagawa and is developing human resources with the objective to spread knowledge about forensic dentistry and perform forensic autopsy. This effort is unique and expected to grow in the future.

On the other hand, issues related to the degree award in the Doctoral program in the graduate school, periodic implementation of self-study and building a mechanism for connecting its outcomes to improvement need to be addressed.

Further improvement and development is expected as the University is making educational reforms and social contributions in line with its mission and purpose and

aiming for University-wide improvement, based on this review and led by the President, in internal quality assurance also.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University holds remarkable achievements in domestic social contribution activities, including dental medicine support to victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake as part of University-wide volunteer activity, sharing of identity verification and other information as part of Disaster Health Emergency Unit and cooperation in lectures and practical education and training of police dentists and police forensic experts. In addition, it also established the Yokosuka-Shonan Disaster Health Emergency Research Center to develop Disaster Health Emergency Science and is nurturing human resources who can conduct and promote practical work and research on disaster health dentistry and medicine with a focus on the region. To expand this further into the field of forensic autopsy, the University established the University Center of Legal Medicine, Kanagawa and is undertaking expansion activities. It is commendable that the University is contributing to society through such activities that embody its founding philosophy.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Dentistry, the University allows grant of Doctoral degree to candidates who submit their thesis without any affiliation with the University after dropping-out, when they are unable to obtain the degree during the standard term of the program and drop-out upon earning the number of credits required to complete the program. This rule is not appropriate. The University should review its degree award policy for the Doctoral program and encourage students to obtain the degree within the standard period of the program with due consideration to the purpose of the Program-Based Graduate School System.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the University has established a self-study system based on regulations, self-study is not implemented periodically, and no adequate university-wide system is in place to connect the outcomes to improvement. The University should implement periodic self-study and leverage it effectively by building a system to connect the issues that surface to improvement and reform.