

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

Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Okayama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2014	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2015 – March.31.2022)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare

Overview

Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare (hereafter, the University) was established in 1991 with six departments in two faculties to respond to the medical needs of the current age. It embraces the new concept of Medical Welfare, which aims to integrate education and research in the fields of both medical care and welfare. Currently, the University operates with three faculties, the Faculty of Health and Welfare, the Faculty of Health Science and Technology, and the Faculty of Health and Welfare Services Administration, and three graduate schools, the Graduate School of Health and Welfare, the Graduate School of Health Science and Technology, and the Graduate School of Health and Welfare Services Administration. The campus is located in Kurashiki city, Okayama Prefecture.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University made efforts to improve first year education by introducing the Starts Hour and offering clinical education in close cooperation with Kawasaki Medical School and other local institutions. In the future, further development of clinical education, including education in cooperation with multi-professions is expected. It is commendable that the University has made nationwide efforts for health education to benefit the middle-aged and elderly, as well as education and guidance for guardians of developmentally disabled children, including those with autism.

However, while the University has made some efforts to improve the issues pointed out in the last accreditation review, results in the areas of student enrollment and the research environment are still insufficient. In addition, although the policies on degree award and the curriculum design policies are being reviewed, parts of these policies still have not been stipulated. This should be improved. The review system for each section is also insufficient. Hereafter, the University should define a clear policy for its internal quality assurance system and develop a review system so that the PDCA cycle can function properly. Further development of the University is expected by implementing these measures.

Notable Strengths

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- It is commendable that the University has maintained good relationships with the local community, contributing the development of special fields not only through research but also practical studies. And it is also commendable that by engaging in these activities, the University has upgraded the quality of the faculty. Notably, the Graduate School of Health and Welfare Services Administration holds a monthly research meeting with welfare institutions in the northern part Okayama Prefecture, and invites undergraduate faculty to work collaboratively with staff of those institutions to conduct research on issues of local welfare. In addition, the University has accepted the requests from various groups and committees in Okayama Prefecture, Kurashiki city and has offered social activities that use design skills as practical science.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University cooperates and collaborates with society through the following efforts. The University provides autistic children, autistic

adults, their families, and the professionals who work with them with various programs through the TEACCH Department. The department's aim is to support guardians and educational institutions for autistic children and developmentally disabled children through education and guidance. For example, it has implemented the Twenty-Five Times Series of special lectures on autism, including training seminars, and level-up seminars, for professionals and guardians working with autistic adults and children. Applications for these programs come from around the country, and the number of participants is increasing every year.

- It is commendable that the Health and Sports Lessons for the Middle-Aged and Elderly program, offered by the Department of Health and Sports Science, utilizes the notable quality of the department and has become well known in the local community. This social service activity has been ongoing for sixteen years, and every year it has more applicants than the number of positions available. The program, run in collaboration with Kurashiki city and the Kurashiki Sports Promotion Foundation, responds to individual needs, with students offering one-on-one guidance to participants.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In all graduate schools, neither the policy on degree award nor the curriculum design policy for any degree program has been defined. These policies should be stipulated based on the mission and purpose of the University, and made known to the public.
- The criteria for examining degree seeking-dissertation common to all graduate programs was defined in July 2014, and the addendum of this criteria for each major was also defined at the same time. However, they have not been made available to students. This situation should be improved, by clearly stating them in the student handbook.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low, at 0.35 in the master's program in the Graduate School of Health Science and Technology, 0.24 in the master's program, and 0.17 in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Health and Welfare Services Administration. These numbers should be improved.
- The ratio of transfer students to the student admission cap is low at 0.40 in the Department of Clinical Psychology and 0.30 in the Department of Nursing in the Faculty of Health and Welfare; at 0.50 in the Department of Health and Sports Science and 0.67 in the Department of Clinical Nutrition in the Faculty of Health Science and Technology; and at 0.00 in the Department of Health and Welfare Services Management, 0.00 in the Department of Medical Secretarial Arts, 0.00 in the Department of Design for Medical and Health Care, and 0.17 in the Department of Health Informatics in the Faculty of Health and Welfare Services Administration. These numbers should be improved.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- The average ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshmen admission cap for last five years is high at 1.22 in the Department of Sensory Science and 1.25 in the Department of Medical Engineering in the Faculty of Health Science and Technology, and 1.20 in the Faculty of Health Science and Technology as a whole. The ratios are low at 0.44 in the Department of Design for Medical and Health Care and 0.88 in the Department of Health Informatics in the Faculty of Health and Welfare Services Administration. The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.20 in the Department of Sensory Science and 1.20 in the Department of Medical Engineering in the Faculty of Health Science and Technology, while the ratio is low at 0.40 in the Department of Design for Medical and Health Care in the Faculty of Health and Welfare Services Administration and 0.89 in the Faculty of Health and Welfare Services Administration as a whole. These numbers must be improved.