

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

Kansai Medical University



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Osaka, 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 Kansai Medical University

Overview

Founded as the Osaka Women's Medical College in 1928, the Osaka Women's Medical University was established in 1949. In 1954, the university became coeducational and changed its name to Kansai Medical University (hereafter, the University). It established the Graduate School of Medicine in 1961. Currently it is an institution with one faculty, the Medical School, and one graduate school, the Graduate School of Medicine. In April of 2013, the University integrated its functions in Hirakata city, Osaka Prefecture, and since then and has deployed education, research, and medical care activities according to the founding idea of "Jijin Shinkyō" ("Training doctors with a spiritual norm of love").

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University has made notable efforts to improve its learning environment by promoting convenient ways for students to study and by better facilitating communication between students and the faculty and staff. It is also commendable that the University has widened the opportunities for women faculty to be actively involved, introduced a personnel system to develop the talent of administrative staff and human resources, and has made social contributions and engaged in social collaboration by providing knowledge collected by the University to the community.

However, some issues remain. The written qualification criteria for certain faculty should be developed, and the library environment and the enrollment numbers should be improved. The internal quality assurance system should also be improved.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Organization

- The University created a system to support women faculty aiming to promote working conditions in which female faculty can cope with both work and child-rearing, and has offered a training program after returning to work as well as a flexible working style. It is commendable that as a result of system, the number of women faculty using this system is increasing.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The learning support system, Moodle, is used mainly for the fifth-year clinical clerkship examination following the practicums in each clinical department. Students have access to this system inside and outside of the campus. With this system, they can prepare for the national examination from an early stage, and they can self-assess their weaknesses by trying problems used in past examinations. This is a very convenient system for self-study in that it responds the needs of each student. It is commendable that with the use of this system, students' study time has increased, and students are more actively engaged in learning.

Student Support

- It is commendable that the presentation of students' requests to the University, which takes place at the annual Educational Affairs Meeting, provides a valuable opportunity to improve students' communication skills and facilitates communication between students and the faculty and staff. At the meeting, which is attended by influential persons such as the University's president, vice president,

and head of educational affairs, a student representative presents requests from students based on the results of a survey conducted in advance. The University responds to these requests, and takes actions, for example, to repair facilities, improve the instruction of medical English, and improve the examination process.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the following efforts are considered as community-based social collaboration and social contribution. In the medical equipment development project called the Healthy Areas Along the Train Line (aptly named because the University and the affiliated hospital are located along the Keihan line), the University works together with local corporations and has developed medical products such as a low-cost bone conduction hearing aid.

Administration and Finance

- It is commendable that the motivation and talent of the staff has improved through establishing a human resource development department. The department is a part of the newly organized personnel-specific section which was formerly a part of the general affairs section. It promotes staff development through the new Challenging the Objective system, and conducts the Work Knowledge Examinations that require certain knowledge for each rank. Staff may retake the exams until they pass.

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The criteria for the appointment and promotion of the assistant professor and the faculty of general education have not been defined. This should be improved.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The policy on degree award of the Graduate School of Medicine only defines the requirements for graduation, but does not define the required learning outcomes such as the knowledge and skills expected at program completion. This should be improved.
- In the doctoral program of Graduate School of Medicine, there are students who complete all the requirements except dissertation, and leave the university before completing their dissertation requirement within the time limit. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have the enrollment states, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having doctoral programs, the university should create measure to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- In the Medical School, the average of the ratios of last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshmen admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.03 and 1.04 respectively. These numbers should be improved.

Education and Research Environment

- In regards to the library collection, the volume of books and electronic journals are limited, and the electronic server of the library often experiences glitches. Measures should be taken to ensure sufficient volume of books and electronic journals as well as stable operation of the server system.

Internal Quality Assurance

- While the system for review and improvement of university activities take place in each section or institute as required, the process for the University as a whole has not been working sufficiently. The authority of the Self-study Committee, which handles the review and improvement process, has not been stipulated. The University should clarify the system to reflect the results of review for improvement so that the internal quality assurance system is fully functional.