

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

**Kansai Medical University**



<b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, Japan
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029)	

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kansai Medical University**

### **Overview**

The founding spirit of Kansai Medical University is “to cultivate human qualities through the ideals of Jijinshinkyo, namely ‘Benevolence, Compassion and Empathy,’” and its mission is defined as “to foster medical professionals who have ingenious intellect, rich humanity, and ability to serve society, and to advance research of medicine, and nursing deeply to contribute to the growth of culture and public welfare.” In order to fulfill the founding spirit and mission of the University, the University has drawn up the “Kansai Medical University Medium-Term Plan,” and based on this plan, reforms are underway in seven areas: “education and research,” “medical care,” “infrastructure and facilities,” “management administration,” “financial management,” “human resources management,” and “social contribution activities”. In terms of the education and research structure in particular, the opening of the Faculty of Nursing and the Graduate School of Nursing (Master’s and Doctoral Programs) in 2018 and the Faculty of Rehabilitation and the Graduate School of Medicine (Master’s Program) in 2021 have been achieved.

With respect to internal quality assurance, a system has been established whereby the Education and Research Promotion Committee, chaired by the President, reports the details of its efforts on various issues to the Self-Study Committee and receives advice. However, review from the perspective of the Self-Study Committee and its advice to the Education and Research Promotion Committee are not specifically stated in the universities regulations, policies and procedures, a situation that should be corrected.

Regarding education, all faculties and graduate schools have organized their curricula appropriately in accordance with the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy). In order to promote independent participation on the part of students, KMULAS (Kansai Medical University Learning Assistant System) has been introduced as a Learning Management System (LMS), and syllabi, lecture materials, video materials, mini-tests, and reports are all posted in one place to facilitate students’ active participation in classes. In addition, the University is actively working to incorporate multidisciplinary collaborative education and other initiatives. The identification and evaluation of learning outcomes as stipulated in the degree award policy is also

generally conducted appropriately through radar charts based on course grades, rubrics, various questionnaires, and other means.

With respect to student support, deserving of special mention is the establishment of the “Career Center for Female Doctors” in the Faculty of Medicine, which provides research support, enhanced pre- and post-graduation education, career support, networking support, and support for returning to work, specifically for women.

Looking at social cooperation and social contribution, the JUAA can confirm that the Faculty of Medicine has developed excellent initiatives such as joint projects to maintain the health of local residents based on a regional cooperation agreement with Kadoma City and the Medical Association, and a prenatal/postnatal mother and child support project operated by the School of Nursing under an agreement with Osaka Infant Care Center.

However, there are issues that should be improved. First, the objectives of each faculty and graduate school are not stipulated in the University regulations or equivalent rules. Regarding internal quality assurance, in addition to the aforementioned issues, there is also the issue of the unclear relationship between the Faculty of Nursing’s Self-Study Committee and the university-wide internal quality assurance system. Other issues that require improvement include overcapacity in the Faculty of Medicine, lack of study rooms, and discrepancies between the regulations and the actual situation regarding procedures for revising the school regulations.

Going forward, the JUAA hopes that the University will resolve these issues through internal quality assurance initiatives and make greater strides forward by further developing its many distinctive initiatives.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Faculty and Faculty Organization*

- The “Medical Education Workshop” is a distinctive FD activity that has been conducted for many years. The president and faculty members gather together to discuss and exchange opinions on current educational issues and problems while incorporating the viewpoints of students, who are the main agents of learning. The approach of students and faculty discussing educational issues from the same standpoint embodies the academic culture of freedom, autonomy, and self-learning, and is highly commendable as an outstanding initiative that will deliver results in terms of educational improvement.

### *Student Support*

- Both the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Nursing implement career support education from the early years of study. Particularly commendable is the establishment of the “Career Center for Female Doctors” in the Faculty of Medicine, which provides research support, enhanced pre- and post-graduation education, career support, networking support, and support for returning to work, specifically for women.

### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- The Faculty of Medicine has concluded a regional cooperation agreement with Kadoma City and the Medical Association to conduct a cohort survey on the health of citizens and implement initiatives for promoting the health and healthy life expectancy of local residents, and has reported the results in an authoritative English-language journal. In addition, the Faculty of Nursing has an agreement and collaboration with the Osaka Infant Care Center to review, analyze, and investigate case studies of programs to support prenatal and postnatal mothers and their children. These are all commendable efforts for social contribution and cooperation that combine distinctive research with the needs of the local community.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Mission and Purpose*

- No educational and research objectives for the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Nursing are stipulated in the university rules or equivalent regulations. This should be improved.

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- The Faculty of Nursing has established its own Self-Study Committee, but the relationship between this committee and the university-wide Self-Study Committee is uncertain, and it is also unclear how the results of the committee’s checks and reviews are handled on a university-wide basis. As a university with three faculties and two graduate schools, improvement is required so that each committee and organization can properly divide up roles and cooperate with each other.

### *Student Enrollment*

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Medicine is high at 1.03. This should be improved to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.

*Education and Research Environment*

- There is a lack of study rooms for students in all faculties and graduate schools to use freely. This should be improved.

*University Management and Finance*

- Although the school regulations stipulate the establishment of a "University Advisory Council" to deliberate and discuss matters common to the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Nursing, and stipulate that revisions and repeal of university regulations shall be deliberated on by the Council, in AY2020 the school regulations were revised without going through the Council, and there are some inconsistencies between the regulations and actual conditions. This should be improved.

**Recommendation**

*Internal Quality Assurance*

- The Education and Research Promotion Committee has been positioned as an organization to promote university-wide internal quality assurance, and the Self-Study Committee has been established to support the committee's efforts to do so. However, the procedures for assessment from the Self-Study Committee's own perspective and its advice to the Education and Research Promotion Committee, as well as the specific regulations, policies, and procedures for giving feedback based on that advice to individual faculties and graduate schools, are not clearly stated. This should be corrected.