

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

Showa Pharmaceutical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2023	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2031)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Showa Pharmaceutical University

Overview

Showa Pharmaceutical University actively undertakes educational and research activities with the purposes of undergraduate and graduate schools established based on the founding spirit of “independence and harmony” and the mission of “pharmaceutical contribution to humanity.” To achieve the mission and purposes, the Showa Pharmaceutical University Grand Design was formulated as the University’s medium- to long-term plan setting forth the long-term objective of “becoming a leading university with six-year pharmacy education and research by nurturing pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers with well-rounded character traits who can play an active role as pharmaceutical experts in a wide range of fields from drug design to clinical practice.”

The University’s mission is reflected in its social contribution activities in cooperation with municipalities. The Medication and Childcare Consultation Cafe offers services for childrearing households to consult with pharmacists and psychologists about medications and health. The Lesson with Babies and Their Parents is organized as a regular class for students and childrearing parents to interact with each other. These are highly commendable activities that provide students with opportunities to directly communicate with childrearing parents and to think in detail about their own future work-life styles, while helping to create a local community that supports childrearing households.

Regarding the University’s internal quality assurance, the Showa Pharmaceutical University Internal Quality Assurance Policy was established in AY2022 to clarify the concept of internal quality assurance, and has been publicized both on campus and off, along with the Showa Pharmaceutical University Internal Quality Assurance Structure that illustrates the internal quality assurance system. To assure university-wide internal quality, the University has organized the Showa Pharmaceutical University Self-Study Committee, under which the University Self-Study Committee, Graduate School Self-Study Committee, Affiliated Junior and Senior High School Self-Study Committee, and University Corporation Self-Study Committee are formed to conduct inspections and assessments for improvement and enhancement. However, with the structure and mechanism recently developed in AY2022, each self-study committee’s regulations are inconsistent with the newly established internal quality assurance policy,

with discrepancies also found in the actual conditions, indicating the inadequate functioning of the mechanism stated in the policy. Moreover, the connection between the roles of four committees involved in the University's self-study activities – the Showa Pharmaceutical University Self-Study Committee, University Self-Study Committee, Graduate School Self-Study Committee, and University Corporation Self-Study Committee and the president in charge of the University's decision-making process and the University Management Meeting is unclear. This situation points to major issues with the internal quality assurance structure that should be addressed. In the coming years, the University needs to clarify the positions and roles of each self-study committee, the president, University Management Meeting, Standing Committee, and other bodies in its internal quality assurance structure as well as conduct self-studies on a regular basis and make improvements based on the results.

As for education, the faculty and graduate school have established diploma policies for each degree to be awarded, and formulated and published curriculum policies with the connection to the diploma policies ensured. However, the graduate school does not specify student learning outcomes appropriate for degrees in its diploma policy, and this issue should be addressed. In terms of curriculum policy, the faculty and graduate school do not state the basic concept of curriculum implementation. This should be explained in detail.

To measure student learning outcomes, the faculty uses a diploma policy rubric while considering connecting the learning outcomes to the grade point average (GPA) and other items, with a system nearly in place to appropriately monitor and evaluate the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy. However, the graduate school measures student learning outcomes based solely on the screening of dissertations. This situation should be addressed to explore more appropriate, multifaceted ways to monitor the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy. The master's and doctoral courses provide students with individual guidance, but do not establish the research guidance methods and schedules as research guidance plans for two-year or four-year courses. This issue must be corrected with these items clarified to students beforehand.

There are other areas of improvement the University should address. First, the graduate school master's course has taken steps to fulfill its student enrollment quotas, but quota fulfillment remains insufficient. More efforts should be made to address this issue. With respect to faculty development (FD) activities aimed at enhancing faculty members' skills and abilities and improving faculty organization, the undergraduate school only promotes pharmaceutical education, and does not implement initiatives to enhance its research activities and promote social contribution and other activities. This

issue should be addressed.

In the years ahead, the organizations promoting internal quality assurance are expected to make responsible efforts for internal quality assurance to resolve various issues and enhance the quality of the University's education and research. In addition, the University is expected to advance its unique and outstanding initiatives.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University works with Machida City in Tokyo to provide childrearing households with opportunities to seek counseling about childcare and medications as well as help create a community for those households through such programs as the Lesson with Babies and Their Parents and the Medication and Childcare Consultation Cafe, with pharmacists and psychologists providing consultation services about medications and health. These are highly commendable initiatives that provide students with job experience and contribute to building a local childrearing community that supports childrearing households, while embodying the University's mission of "pharmaceutical contribution to humanity."

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The basic concept of curriculum implementation is not specified in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Master's Course and Doctoral Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This issue should be addressed.
- The Master's Course and Doctoral Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes through the screening of dissertations, but the connection between the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy and the measurement methods is unclear. This issue should be addressed.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is 0.00 in the Master's Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This ratio should be improved with the course's student quotas thoroughly managed.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The undergraduate school does not conduct activities to improve the faculty members' skills and abilities with the aim of enhancing its research activities and promoting social contribution and other activities. This issue should be addressed.

Recommendation

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University Management Meeting (led by the president) issues instructions for improvement as necessary based on the results of inspections and assessments conducted by educational and research organizations, but the Showa Pharmaceutical University Internal Quality Assurance Policy, Showa Pharmaceutical University Self-Study Regulations, and other rules do not stipulate the meeting body's role. This situation creates inconsistencies between the policy and the rules and regulations as well as discrepancies in actual conditions. This issue must be corrected to organize the internal quality assurance structure by clarifying the roles and coordination of the organizations involved in internal quality assurance. Moreover, no concrete indicators and methods are specified for inspections and assessments, and the graduate school has never conducted systematic inspections and assessments. With various issues found with the inspections and assessments, efforts must be made to effectively operate the mechanism for making improvements based on the inspection and assessment results.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Master's Course and Doctoral Course in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences do not state the research guidance methods and schedules as research guidance plans. This issue must be corrected with these items specified and clarified to students beforehand.