

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

Tokyo Dental College



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 Tokyo Dental College

Overview

Tokyo Dental College defines its educational philosophy as respecting humanism “Character building is the first step in becoming a dentist” and proclaims this philosophy as its founding spirit. The College sets forth the principle of remaining committed to serving as a dental school that cultivates sensible, humanistic dentists with proper social skills and an international mindset as well as the knowledge and skills required of dentists. The College has also set out a mission statement to engage faithfully with both prospective and enrolled students as well as its graduates, and to grow together. To achieve the mission, the Tokyo Dental College Medium-Term Plan for AY2020 to AY2024 was formulated laying out the five key objectives of “college-wide,” “education,” “research,” “medical and social contribution,” and “internationalization,” along with a list of 72 action plans with target levels specified for each item. All divisions, faculty, and staff members across the school work together to conduct periodic inspections and make necessary improvements.

Regarding the College’s internal quality assurance, the School Code stipulates that the College conducts self-studies on its educational and research activities. The Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedures outlined in the Tokyo Dental College Policy clarifies the basic concept of internal quality assurance, the structure and roles of organizations, and the operational process of the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle. The Tokyo Dental College Self-Study Committee (hereafter “Self-Study Committee”) inspects and assesses the College’s educational, research, and other activities by annually checking the achievement status of the medium-term plan. After the committee issues instructions for improvement, the Academic Affairs Council in charge of coordinating with the committees on campus receives reports and shares information with its members, before undertaking improvements for the committees, courses, and other programs. In the coming years, the College is expected to make further efforts to notify its school members of the roles of the Self-Study Committee and the Academic Affairs Council, and to steadily operate the established internal quality assurance system.

As for education, the College has appropriately arranged lesson subjects for students to study in a systematic way based on the publicized diploma and curriculum policies. In addition to each subject’s exams, summative assessments centered on

comprehensive ability tests are carried out to rigorously evaluate the grades of each year's students and decide on their advancement. To establish and advance student learning during the six-year course, a combination of lectures and group work activities are adopted to promote student independence and pursue effective teaching methods. These distinctive initiatives using creative educational methods have helped students acquire dental licenses and develop their career paths. Moreover, the College focuses on communication and provides students with practical opportunities to develop their communication skills with patients through medical interviews in the communication studies course featuring role-playing exercises with the help of volunteer patients. This initiative is highly commendable.

The College promotes partnerships with other universities, and has undertaken an undergraduate food educational program in collaboration with a university providing nutritionist training programs, with the outcomes including jointly developing meals for people with eating disorders or dysphagia. This is an effective initiative for training dentists with the broad range of knowledge necessary for future society, with even more positive outcomes expected. The College is also promoting advanced research on jawbone disorders through various types of granted programs. It is highly commendable that this project helps students develop a research mindset and improve the quality of their research papers, and that the College is striving to foster young researchers by continuously organizing the Tokyo Dental College Young Academy of Science workshop to provide opportunities to conduct self-directed research and presentation activities.

There are several areas of improvement the College should address, however. The Tokyo Dental College School of Dentistry has excessive quota fulfillment in student enrollment due in part to its strict advancement requirements, and should continue to provide learning support and guidance while maintaining its quality through these requirements. The Tokyo Dental College Graduate School of Dental Science should develop indicators and methods for monitoring and evaluating the student learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy, and conduct faculty development (FD) activities aimed at improving and enhancing its education. In terms of the graduate school's admissions, a foreign language (English) test is administered for all applicants, but the exam method and administration of the major subject and interview lack a systematic process as they are left to each course. This issue should be addressed with information on the admissions process further publicized.

In the years ahead, the College is expected to effectively operate its internal quality assurance system to address various issues, advance its numerous distinctive initiatives, and further progress toward achieving its purpose of "cultivating professionals

with abundant knowledge and high integrity, thereby contributing to the welfare of humanity.”

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The College has signed a partnership agreement with a university providing nutritionist training programs to operate the Nursing Home Care/Community Comprehensive Care/Food Physical Property Practicums as a new multidisciplinary collaboration effort between dentistry and nutrition. Students from both schools propose new recipes and eating methods in joint lessons from the perspectives of dentistry dealing with the treatment and maintenance of oral and swallowing functions, and nutrition focused on proposing easy ways to ingest the required nutrition based on nutritional assessments. This initiative is commendable as an effective educational approach expected to develop dentists who can work across specialized fields with a broad perspective in terms of comprehensive community care.
- The College has created the Patient Community consisting of registered patients who agree to cooperate in dental education, with these patients providing assistance in role-playing exercises and other training in medical interviews in the third-year communication studies course, in order for students to recognize the importance of communication between dentists and patients, and acquire these skills. This is a useful and commendable initiative that enables students to gain hands-on experience in listening and responding to patients prior to clinical training in their fifth year, thereby fostering dentists with high communication skills as indicated in the competencies.

Education and Research Environment

- The College has established the Multidisciplinary Research Center for Jaw Disease (MRCJD), for an advanced stomatological research project Jaw Disease Project intended to contribute to a healthy and long-lived society. This project was selected for external funding, and even with the grant's end, the College has continued its activities by promoting collaboration through cross-disciplinary and joint research

beyond its courses as well as clinical issues presented by graduates, thereby improving the quality of its faculty members' research papers and increasing the number of externally funded grants. Moreover, as part of the Jaw Disease Project, young researchers have organized the Tokyo Dental College Young Academy of Science workshop, and research grants and other assistance are provided. It is commendable that these efforts are contributing to the development of young, next-generation researchers.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Tokyo Dental College Graduate School of Dental Science monitors student learning outcomes based on the screening of dissertations, including guidance and midterm presentations, but the connection between the dissertation screening criteria and the diploma policy is unclear. This issue should be addressed with the learning outcomes appropriately monitored and evaluated.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.09 in the Tokyo Dental College School of Dentistry. This high ratio is due in part to the school's strict advancement requirements, but the ratio should be lowered with the school's student quotas thoroughly managed.
- The Tokyo Dental College Graduate School of Dental Science clearly states a foreign language (English), a major subject, and interview as examination subjects in its admissions guidelines. An English test is administered for all applicants on the examination dates, but the exam contents and administration method of the major subject and interview are left to the head professor of each course. Consequently, the dates and methods of written exams for the major subject and interview are not standardized with some courses holding interviews ahead of the exam dates, indicating a lack of a systematic process. This situation should be addressed.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The graduate school should implement FD activities that include systematic training for improving its lessons and the contents and methods of research guidance.