

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

**Meiji Pharmaceutical University**



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

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Meiji Pharmaceutical University**

### **Overview**

Based on its founding spirit, Meiji Pharmaceutical University (hereafter “University”) sets forth the educational philosophy of “cultivating individuals who possess both sophia (pure knowledge) and phronesis (practical knowledge)” and the educational objectives of nurturing “pharmacists who can take responsibility for medication,” “inquiring and insightful individuals with ample creative ideas,” and “internationally competent pharmacists with tender hearts and well-rounded character traits.” With the founding spirit as the basis of its education, the University formulated the School Corporation Meiji Pharmaceutical University Mid-Term Plan (General Operation Plan) with 10 targets, including “improvement and enhancement of the pharmaceutical education and research environment,” “upgrade of its social contributions,” “study on the operation of the Meiji Pharmaceutical University Pharmacy,” and “enhancement of the University’s brand power through public relations activities.” The Mid-Term Plan also highlights the University’s aims “to implement education and research reform in response to advancements in pharmaceutical sciences and healthcare” and “to improve the quality and satisfaction level of student education in response to changes in healthcare.”

As for education, the faculty and graduate school have set out their respective degree award policies (diploma policies) and curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policies), and systematically laid out their curricula by offering subjects suitable for individual degrees in line with their respective curriculum design and implementation policies. For example, at the undergraduate level, the Department of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences offers a number of Liberal Arts Subjects and Basic Pharmaceutical Subjects to first- and second-year students to foster broad perspectives and well-rounded character traits required of “high-quality pharmacists.” The systematically designed curriculum subsequently requires students advancing to higher levels to take Medical Subjects to enhance their expertise as pharmacists and Comprehensive Subjects to develop their applied skills. The Department of Life and Pharmaceutical Sciences systematically allocates subjects to each year in accordance with its curriculum design and implementation policy, thereby organizing its curriculum with an emphasis on continuing education at the graduate school. The graduate school’s curriculum combines coursework and research work to help students

acquire advanced expertise, the ability to complete research projects, and communication skills based on a global perspective. With respect to classes, a cap is set on the number of students enrolled in a language class, and as a way of activating classes, participatory classes incorporating problem-solving learning are offered for practical training and seminars, such as Early Hands-On Learning and Pharmaceutical Practical Training, which make the most of the Meiji Pharmaceutical University Pharmacy.

Based on the Mid-Term Plan, which reflects the University's commitment to education and research reform in response to advances in pharmaceutical sciences and healthcare, the University possesses a rich collection of highly specialized journals and e-journals in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. The University also allocates research funds weighted toward laboratories with high-quality research achievements based on annual performance evaluations in order to enhance faculty members' motivation for research. As part of its efforts to nurture young researchers, the University dispatches full-time faculty members, including assistant professors, to overseas research institutes every year while guaranteeing their positions and salaries. It is commendable that these efforts to improve the research environment and motivate faculty members have led to an increasing number of applications, including successful ones, for external funds, thereby contributing to the advancement of research. In addition, the University has established collaborative relationships with many external organizations over the years, with such initiatives including the Lifelong Learning Course for Pharmacists, Citizens' College Courses, and Kiyose Children's University. The University has also opened the Pharmaceutical Plant Garden and the Meiji Pharmaceutical University Museum to the public; established the Meiji Pharmaceutical University Pharmacy; and founded the Meiji Pharmaceutical University Asia/Africa Center for Drug Discovery as part of its international exchanges. A distinctive feature of the University is its engagement in numerous activities to make regional and social contributions and to return its educational and research achievements to society.

With respect to internal quality assurance, the University clearly defined the university-wide internal quality assurance policy and procedures in AY2020, and established the Internal Quality Assurance Committee as an organization promoting internal quality assurance. The Internal Quality Assurance Committee has recently made recommendations to the president on the basis of the Self-Study Committee's Self-Study Report, which adopts the results of the self-studies of the permanent committees and other internal organizations, but no mechanism is in place for the president to provide feedback and support for the permanent committees and other internal organizations to make improvements in response to the Internal Quality Assurance Committee's

recommendations. Improvements are required to enhance education and research by establishing a mechanism to ensure the functionality of the university-wide PDCA cycle and making the mechanism work effectively.

There are also several areas of improvement identified in the current evaluation and accreditation that the University should address. The first area concerns the enhancement of education and student quota management in the graduate school. The Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences has designed a curriculum appropriate for students to acquire advanced research skills contributing to the development of pharmaceutical and life sciences, but there is no research guidance plan clearly stating the schedules and instructional methods for students to earn a degree in any of the degree programs. It is necessary to clarify and show how research guidance is provided to students beforehand. Second, some degree programs do not have an adequate curriculum design and implementation policy, which should be clearly stated. Achievements made in specific research projects can be substituted for a master's thesis and reviewed for course completion, but the screening criteria for the review have not been established. This situation should be improved. As for quota management, student enrollment significantly exceeds the student enrollment cap in some programs. Improvements are required by providing appropriate guidance and educational support to students. Next, both the faculty and graduate school state they assess academic achievements, the acquisition of national qualifications, and thesis reviews to measure student learning outcomes, but the relationship between these methods and the learning outcomes stated in the degree award policy is not clearly defined. The faculty and graduate school are advised to make efforts to accurately measure and evaluate the learning outcomes by creating an appropriate index.

Going forward, the University is expected to resolve these issues and implement improvements through its internal quality assurance efforts, and to further expand many unique initiatives.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Education and Research Environment*

- Based on the Mid-Term Plan, which reflects the University's commitment to education and research reform in response to advances in pharmaceutical sciences and healthcare, the University possesses a rich collection of highly specialized journals and e-journals in the field of pharmaceutical sciences, and allocates research

funds weighted toward laboratories with high-quality research achievements based on annual performance evaluations to improve faculty members' motivation for research. As part of its efforts to nurture young researchers, the University dispatches full-time faculty members, including assistant professors, to overseas research institutes every year while guaranteeing their positions and salaries. It is commendable that these efforts to improve the research environment and motivate faculty members have led to an increasing number of applications, including successful ones, for external funds, thereby contributing to the advancement of research.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- With the internal quality assurance system started in AY2020, the University conducts a self-study every year and makes recommendations to the president based on the self-study results, but a mechanism has not been established for the president to provide feedback and support to the permanent committees and other internal organizations. Improvements are required to enhance education and research by establishing a mechanism to ensure the functionality of the university-wide PDCA cycle and making the mechanism function effectively.

### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- In the Doctoral Degree Program in Life and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the basic concept of curriculum implementation is not stated in the curriculum design and implementation policy and requires improvement.
- The faculty strives to measure and evaluate student learning outcomes through grading, graduation research, and graduation surveys, but the rubric for graduation research and the survey items do not sufficiently correspond to the learning outcomes stated in the degree award policy. The graduate school states that it assesses academic achievements and reviews theses to measure learning outcomes, but the relationship between the screening criteria and the learning outcomes stated in the degree award policy is not clearly defined. Both the faculty and graduate school are advised to

make efforts to accurately measure and evaluate the learning outcomes by reviewing the current index and measurement methods.

### *Student Enrollment*

- In the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is high at 2.20 in the four-year Doctoral Degree Program in Pharmacy and Health Sciences and 2.00 in the Master's Degree Program in Life and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Improvements are required to ensure that the graduate school's student quotas are thoroughly managed.

### **Recommendation**

#### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- In the Master's Degree Program and Doctoral Degree Program in Life and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the four-year Doctoral Degree Program in Pharmacy and Health Sciences in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, schedules and instructional methods are not set for students to earn a degree. This inadequacy should be rectified with schedules and methods clarified and made known to students beforehand.
- For the Master's Degree Program in Life and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the School Regulations for the Graduate School of Meiji Pharmaceutical University stipulates that achievements made in specific research projects may be substituted for a master's thesis, but the regulations do not lay out the screening criteria. This situation should be rectified with the criteria clarified and made known to students.