

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

Aichi Medical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Aichi, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2028)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Aichi Medical University

Overview

The mission of Aichi Medical University, which also forms its founding principles, is “to train well-rounded clinicians who possess medical expertise and skills for the new era, especially doctors who can serve the local community in response to the demands of the times, and to train medical instructors who can further develop and improve medical care”. This founding principle is also summed up in the school motto, “Gugan-Kokyu (discernment and deliberation)” A medium-term plan has been drawn up in order to fulfil these founding principles and objectives, and it can be said that the University is working to enhance its educational and research activities.

With respect to internal quality assurance, in addition to the fact that policies have not been sufficiently developed, issues can be seen in the development of and functioning of systems, such as the lack of clarity in the division of roles between the Council for University Administration and the Check and Review Committee, the organizations that conduct internal quality assurance, and the lack of sufficient management and support at the respective faculties and graduate schools. Since each faculty, graduate school, and university-affiliated facility operates an improvement cycle, it is hoped that a university-wide improvement cycle will be established and appropriately interlinked to further enhance education.

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). The School of Medicine and the College of Nursing have introduced a course numbering system so that students can take courses in a systematic and sequential manner. In addition, the University has established Medical Education Center to improve medical education and facilitate medical education activities, while outstanding efforts have been made to actively incorporate students’ opinions when making improvements to the curriculum.

In terms of social cooperation and contribution, it is highly commendable that the University has established strong and multilayered relationships with local governments and high schools, such as by developing cohort studies and health promotion activities for local residents and providing training in disaster medical coordination.

Conversely, some issues can also be identified, such as the number of students

enrolled in the School of Medicine exceeding capacity, and insufficient faculty development (referred to below as “FD”) activities to improve the quality of faculty members in the Graduate School of Nursing.

Going forward, we hope that the University will solve these issues through internal quality assurance efforts and make further progress by further developing distinctive university-specific initiatives.

Notable Strengths

Student Enrollment

- The University is striving to take in a diverse range of students, and in AY 2019, it became the first private medical university in Japan to admit one student through the International Baccalaureate Examination, which was introduced in the School of Medicine in AY 2017. The enrollment of internationally-minded students has served as inspiration for others, and this is a commendable development in light of the various benefits it is expected to bring.

Education and Research Environment

- In AY 2016, the University formalized a “University Research Unit Creation Support Program” to support researchers from different departments in conducting group research for the integration of basic and clinical medicine, thereby invigorating research activities. This program requires applications for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research to be made and for the principal investigator to provide active research guidance to several young researchers. Although there are variations from year to year, the number of applications for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research by young researchers has been increasing since AY 2017. Given the further results expected in the future, this is to be commended.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- In developing various programs relating to local partnerships and to regional cooperation and community service, the University places a particular emphasis on activities to prepare for disasters. Taking Nagakute City, which has been designated part of a priority recipient prefecture in the event of a Nankai Trough Earthquake, as

a model district, a “Regional Network Disaster Preparation Study Committee” consisting of experts from Nagakute City was established in AY 2018. This committee conducts surveys of citizens’ awareness and of actual conditions in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake. Based on the results of these studies, the University is examining the ideal form for local networks during disasters, preparing action manuals for individual organizations, holding training sessions and drills, drawing up a local action plan as a model for awareness-raising, and using lectures and similar events to communicate it to government agencies and medical and welfare institutions. These activities are to be commended.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The policy on internal quality assurance consists only of the implementation of checks and reviews, indicating that policies and procedures have not been properly developed. In addition, it is the Council for University Administration and the Check and Review Committee that are conducting internal quality assurance, the division of roles between these two bodies is insufficiently clear, and the Check and Review Committee only responds to evaluations by external agencies, failing to fulfil its role as a body for actually conducting internal quality assurance. In addition, the fact that there are few cases in which the University Administrative Council has been involved in the operation and support of academic management at faculties and graduate schools, it is difficult to say that it has been sufficiently implemented. Improvements are required to ensure that the internal quality assurance system functions. This will involve properly developing the system and periodically checking and evaluating its suitability, in line with the policy of developing such in AY 2020 and publishing it on the website.

Student Enrollment

- At 1.04, the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the School of Medicine is high, and improvements are required in order to ensure proper management of student quotas.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The FD activities in the Graduate School of Nursing have been insufficient, and are yet to progress to initiatives for improving the teaching abilities of faculty responsible for Graduate School classes or stimulating research activities. As such, improvements should be made to ensure that they are implemented appropriately. In addition, although the Graduate School of Medicine conducts its own FD activities, the purpose and aim of these activities are unclear. Going forward, therefore, improvements are needed to make the intentions of these activities known and to make them more useful in improving faculty members' skills.

Recommendation

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Graduate School of Nursing has not formulated criteria for reviewing the outcomes of research on specific subjects. This should be rectified so that they can be determined and made public.