

Accreditation Results
(Accreditation Results for School of Veterinary Medicine)

**Department of Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture,
University of Miyazaki**



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

Accreditation Results for the Department of Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Miyazaki

The Department of Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Miyazaki (bachelor program), “aims to foster veterinarians with basic knowledge on agriculture; expertise and ethical perspectives of veterinary sciences; skills to apply, practice and develop veterinary knowledge; and the ability to contribute to regional and international societies” based on the educational philosophies of the University and the Faculty.

As for the curriculum, the Department makes effective use of Miyazaki Prefecture’s position as one of the leading livestock production areas in Japan and invites to classes the prefecture’s front-line producers as guest speakers; it also offers advanced courses that provide students with opportunities to study the latest cases of production medicine, thereby enhancing their problem-solving and communication skills with producers. These are commendable efforts. In addition, the proactive use of rubric tables for Graduation Thesis (Veterinary) lecture course is a commendable way to ensure fair grading by faculty members.

Regarding the faculty members and organization, the Department conducts an annual survey of its alumni who graduated the previous year and the companies who hired them, and shares the survey findings at the faculty development (FD) seminar to enhance its education. This is a noteworthy initiative.

With respect to the educational and research environment, the Center for Animal Disease Control (CADIC), the only research and education facility in Japan specializing in industrial animal disease control, conducts commissioned tests for animal infectious diseases, provides training for veterinarians working for local governments and other organizations, carries out clinical testing for livestock disease control, manages domestic and international consortia, provides clinical testing for zoonosis, and engages in educational activities through open lectures and press releases. These are distinctive features of the Department.

In terms of social cooperation and contribution, the Department holds numerous seminars for local veterinarians and the general public every year. It has also offered for many years the workshop of the Department of Veterinary Sciences, an exchange forum for faculty members, students, and local veterinarians. These are also distinctive efforts of the Department.

As for the self-study system, the Department has established its own Self-

Assessment Committee on Veterinary Education and Research System, which conducts self-studies of its education and research activities twice a month, and connects the results of the self-studies to specific improvement activities. Such efforts to improve the quality of its education are commendable.

There are several areas of improvement identified in the current accreditation process, however.

As for areas of serious concern, the Faculty of Agriculture has not established the requirements for students to advance to the next level. These requirements are necessary for students to confirm the level of skills necessary for advancement and to plan their course of study for the next academic year. The Faculty should take corrective actions to define and communicate these requirements to all students. In addition, the current number of all faculty members is far below the required number of full-time faculty members stipulated in the Standards for Veterinary Education, making it necessary to raise the number of faculty members.

As for other issues to be considered, it is pointed out that the Department has not established its educational purposes, and that its educational aims are stated only in the admission policy's preamble. In addition, the ratio of women to all faculty members is low; some faculty members bear an excessive educational burden; both the number of animal cadavers and the variety of animal species used in practical training are insufficient; the admission system is standardized and provides only a general entrance examination and examination for privately-funded international students; and the results of the evaluation by the Self-Assessment Committee on Veterinary Education and Research System are not disclosed to the public. The Department is required to address these issues.

Going forward, the Department should adopt the results of this accreditation for schools of veterinary medicine, continue its self-study activities for further improvement of veterinary medicine education, and assure and improve the quality of its education to further enhance its distinctive features.