

Gunma Paz University (群馬パース大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University's mission and goals are, in line with its founding principle, to foster specialists in health and medical care and contribute to the development of medical care in the local community. The individuality and distinctive quality of its educational objectives (targets) are clearly indicated in concrete and concise language, and it strives to disseminate these both internally and externally. In addition, the clinical practice and university education are combined, and a mechanism for the re-education of medical care personnel is established through the Graduate School and the research institute activities.

While adapting to on-campus and external changes such as the state of society and the educational environment the University takes initiatives to continuously review the content of its education, faculty realignments based on a medium-to-long-term plan are incorporated in the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy, and attempts are made to achieve consistency with the educational and research organization.

- In order that the meaning of the founding principle of "PAZ" ("Portuguese for peace") may be easily understood by students, it is posted and displayed throughout the campus, and the fact that ingenuity in ensuring all the faculty, staff and students share this concept on a daily basis is worthy of high evaluation.

Standard 2. Students

The University tries to secure a wide diversity of students through various types of entrance examinations based on the admission policy, and the Institutional Research (IR) Office's check system functions by conducting follow-up research on entrants with regard to the appropriateness of their selection.

A class teacher system and tutor system have been introduced, attempts are made to swiftly respond to changes in students' circumstances, and the University strives to prevent dropping-outs or leave of absence. An Employment Consultation Office and Career Support Center have been established for the career guidance of the students, and counselling and other adaptation support are provided with regard to daily student life, centering on the Student Affairs Division.

In terms of the learning environment, all students are lent laptops upon entering the University, and an IT environment has been prepared with wireless LAN in all buildings. The Active Academy has been introduced enabling the perusal of information from the University, course registration details and academic results, and providing support for students' independent learning activities, while

student opinions and requests are appropriately reflected in the improvement of equipment and facilities.

- The University clearly states in writing responses to be made in the event of injury and illness etc., a list of nearby hospitals and clinics, responses in the outbreak of infectious diseases, and the criteria for absence from school according to type of infectious disease, and has prepared a system capable of responding to unexpected situations, all of which merit evaluation.
- In cooperation with local shops, a free newspaper called “CAMPАЗ,” which has special coupons is printed and distributed to all students, and not only the benefit this affords students but the contribution made to the vitalization of the local community are worthy of evaluation.

Standard 3. Educational curriculum

The University disseminates its diploma policy based on educational objectives both internally and externally, and the diploma policy is consistent with the curriculum policy. Furthermore, the curriculum map has been compiled in an easily understood manner. Promotion to the next school year and certifying graduation are stringently implemented through the approval of the President, after separate meetings in each department.

Liberal arts education is conducted with a cross-university perspective, and is designed in order that the students who will be working in clinical settings in the future are effectively motivated. Improvements in educational methods are examined by the Staff Development (SD) Subcommittee, and peer observation of teaching and training workshops, as well as Class Questionnaires by Students are implemented.

The syllabus is inspected and checked by the Academic Administration Committee members, and appropriately prepared. The state of students’ learning is recorded in learning portfolios, which are continuously referred to by faculty, and out to use in the inspection and evaluation of learning achievement and support for learning and class instruction.

- The fact that the state of lectures held, teaching methods, teaching materials used, achievement distribution, average scores etc. of each course are recorded in the University’s annual report, and that the faculty members in charge conduct self-inspection, and that this information is used for improving teaching methods by sharing it among faculty is useful in ensuring serious educational achievement inspection is worthy of merit.

Standard 4. Faculty and Staff

The University has created the new post of Vice President, established a Planning Office and made clear who the members responsible for each committee are. The University aims for the creation of this sort of agile education and learning management and the strengthening of the President’s leadership.

With regard to the assignment of faculty in line with their educational objectives and curriculum, the University is striving to secure a faculty of a size that exceeds the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and assure the quality of its education. In addition, the faculty's Faculty Development (FD) activities and initiatives to improve the quality and ability of staff who are engaged in university operations are implemented in an organizational and systematic manner by the SD Subcommittee, and appropriate reviews of training content are conducted.

With regard to support for research, in addition to the research at the faculty and departments, the Gunma Paz University Research Institute has been established and efforts are being made to enrich the research environment. Furthermore, a system for increasing research funds according to applications made to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research has been stipulated, and initiatives to encourage the acquisition of external funding are promoted.

- Having clarified the type of administrative staff the University aims to employ, a tier-specific/division-specific training system has been created and training is implemented, all of which merits evaluation.

Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance

While maintaining the management discipline and integrity the University is making efforts to achieve its mission and goals. Seminars and lecture are hosted that pay consideration to environmental conservation, human rights and security.

The Board of Directors has been developed as the decision-making organ to achieve the University's mission and goals, efforts are made towards communication and collaboration between the management and education/learning divisions, and functionality as an administration system has been created. Furthermore, the leadership of the Chair of the Board of Directors has been established, and inter-institutional cross-checks between the University's incorporated entity and the University's administrative bodies are functioning.

In line with the medium-to-long-term plan, financial operations have a stable base due to the continuous securement of full enrollment quotas, and the University is seeking to diversify its revenue sources through, for example, the acquisition of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and solicitation of donations.

- The display of concise emergency evacuation route details in the event of earthquakes etc., which are displayed in easily visible places around classroom doors as a crisis management response, is worthy of evaluation.

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

The University aims to establish a university-wide organization and responsibility system for internal quality assurance, promote enhancement of the quality and ability of faculty and staff, and improvements and reforms of educational objectives. As the University continuously conducts independent self-inspection and evaluation, self-inspections and evaluations according to the JIHEE evaluation standards are periodically conducted, and the IR Promotion Office analyzes data accumulated on-campus and externally, and discloses and provides the results to the President and each division.

In addition, while it is to be hoped that the results of the daily self-inspections and evaluations are further utilized to establish the PDCA cycle across the whole university, because the faculty and staff strive to share across the university the targets regarding self-inspection and evaluation in line with the medium-to-long-term plan, an internal quality assurance system is in place and attempts are being made to improve its functionality.

In summary, education at the University is appropriately operated towards the educational objectives based on the mission and goals. With regard to student learning, an educational curriculum has been stipulated as a university that seeks to make a contribution to the local community through health and medical care, and unique educational practices that exercise this individuality are implemented. Management, administration, and finances are conducted in strict observance of laws and regulations, and management stability is attempted through the repletion of student quotas. Moreover, a self-inspection and evaluation system for internal quality assurance has been developed and the University strives to assure the quality of its education.

Note that with regard to the University's unique standards, the general comments on "Standard A. Community contribution" and "Standard B. Promotion of international interaction" should be referred to.

It should be noted that the University has cited the following remarks.

1. Development of graduate school education through establishment of a doctoral program
2. Expansion of medical personnel cultivation
3. Students can go on to earn a living in types of professions with secure prospects in the future