

Takarazuka University of Medical and Health Care (宝塚医療大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

Based on the University's founding principles of "In accordance with the philosophy of cultivating morals and practicing human dignity, nurturing virtuous human resources who are conscious of the social responsibility of medical professionals and have a steadiness that enables them to number themselves among international society with pride", the University's mission, goals, and educational objectives are embodied in the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy as well as stipulated by the one faculty overall and the three departments separately, and are clearly stipulated with regard to the collective development of Western and Eastern medicine and the training of medical professionals such as acupuncturists, moxa-cauterizers, and physical therapists in accordance with the meaning of Article 83 of the School Education Act. The mission, goals, and educational objectives have been considered by various internal committees and are publicly disclosed via the University's website and "Campus Guide", widely disseminating this information both on-campus and outside of the University. The Department of Physical Therapy and Department of Judo Therapy have been established within the Department of Acupuncture as educational and research organizations for achieving the University's mission and goals, while the library and clinic have been established as affiliated organizations. The University's Medium-Term Plan details concrete plans such as the establishment of new departments and graduate schools as well as academic exchange with overseas universities, and initiatives such as the foundation of an affiliated nursery school are being implemented proactively in response to social changes.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

In accordance with the University's admission policy, entrant selections are carried out using various entrance examination styles. Although some departments are not fulfilling their enrollment quotas, the University is pouring effort into revising enrollment quota numbers and carrying out advertising activities, promoting initiatives towards the fulfillment of enrollment quotas. One characteristic of the University is that there are separate diploma policies and curriculum policies for each department depending on the occupations students are studying to enter. As part of Faculty Development (FD) activities, teaching methods are being improved and a special subcommittee is implementing measures related to liberal arts subjects. With regard to support for learning and class instruction, teachers for each year and tutors collaborate with the Division of Academic Affairs to prevent students from taking leave or withdrawing from the University. Strict implementation of the cap system and standards for promotion to the next school year guarantees the quality of the University's credit point system, and other systems for supporting those seeking employment such as the conclusion of an agreement with Hyogo Prefecture have also been established. Learning achievement is evaluated by each department, and learning guidance appropriate for each individual student is provided. Student services are carried out with the Division of Academic Affairs playing a central role, and school bus services have been introduced in response to opinions and requests from students. The number of professors and the number of teaching staff prescribed under the Standards for Establishment of Universities has been met, and teaching staff are allocated appropriately. The University grounds and buildings are in compliance with the Standards for Establishment of Universities and earthquake resistance standards, and barrier-free needs are being taken into account. Expectations are held for further development with regard to securement of entrants and counselling regarding students' health management.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The University has formulated articles of endowment and various other regulations, installing full-time auditors and an Internal Audit Office, and endeavoring to comply with organizational administration and accounting procedures as well as laws and ordinance with integrity. As the University's highest decision-making organ, the Board of Directors has established an Executive Committee that gives it great flexibility. Board of Councilors meetings are attended by auditors, and

the operational checking functions of the Board of Directors are being strengthened. Through the establishment of the “Takarazuka University of Medical and Health Care Operation Council”, “President’s Planning and Coordination Council”, President’s Planning Office, and Vice President system, efforts are being made to smooth Faculty Council operations and enhance Institutional Research (IR) activities, and University operations are carried out under the leadership of the President.

Within the Secretariat, the necessary organizational systems have been created and authorities divided to enable operations to be carried out smoothly with the President’s Planning Office playing a central role. FD and Staff Development (SD) activities are centralized under the “FSD Promotion Committee”, and efforts are being made to enhance the quality and abilities of faculty and staff. Systematic and appropriate financial operations are being implemented in accordance with the medium-term plan, and operating expense subsidies for private universities have enabled the establishment of a stable financial base and maintenance of fiscal balance. Expectations are held for the expansion of organizational operations in the future.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

Independent and autonomous self-inspections and evaluations are carried out in line with the University’s mission and goals based on the University Regulations. A Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee comprising members appointed by the University President takes a central role in conducting self-inspection and evaluation activities every academic year, with Self-Inspection and Evaluation Reports publicly disclosed via the University’s website and shared both on-campus and outside of the University. These reports also include the analysis of data collected through tuition evaluation questionnaires, enrolled student questionnaires, graduate questionnaires and questionnaires on high school/university connection issues and perspectives from external evaluators, ensuring the transparency and objectiveness of self-inspections and evaluations. Self-inspection and evaluation results are reported to the “President’s Planning and Coordination Council, under which a PDCA cycle functions, and mechanisms leading to the improvement and enhancement of university operations and educational and research activities have been constructed.

In summary, the University is earnestly implementing practical educational activities that are connected—admission learning, attainment of national qualifications, employment—in line with the three policies that are realized through the University’s mission and goals, which are based on its founding principles. Measures and initiatives are being taken to secure entrants through the University’s establishment as a university for training medical professionals, and due to the academic year after the first intake of students following establishment of the institution have graduated having passed and eager external funding being injected, these are contributing to the stability of university management. The University carries out annual self-inspections and evaluations and shows high problem-solving capabilities. Expectations are held for future expansion.

Note that with regard to the University’s unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on “Standard A. Local community contribution” should be referred to.