

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

Josai University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Saitama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Josai University

Overview

Josai University (hereafter, the University) was established in 1965 with two faculties and three departments, the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Economics, and the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Chemistry in the Faculty of Science. The University later added undergraduate schools and graduate schools, and currently the University has five undergraduate schools (the Faculty of Contemporary Policy Studies, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Management, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences) and four graduate schools (the Graduate School of Economics, the Graduate School of Business Administration, the Graduate School of Science, and the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences). The University has a campus in Sakado City, Saitama Prefecture, and another in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo, and has committed to providing educational and research activities under the founding spirit of “human development through learning.”

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the University has seriously considered the suggestions made in the accreditation and enacted various improvements. With regard to self-study, the University made improvements by linking the review process with the operation of various sections in the University. The University has actively committed to collaborations with the local government and local communities. In particular, the Koma River Project, which aims to revitalize local communities through raising awareness of ecological activities and regeneration of the natural environment, originated as a voluntary student activity and was developed with the support of the University. The project has been widely recognized by local communities as well as communities across Saitama Prefecture and has contributed to the environmental protection and revitalization of local communities. The University has also been actively involved in faculty development, including workshops and lectures for faculty members. At the same time, the University has asked students to evaluate faculties and developed a database of these student evaluations. A system to review teaching content, methods, and outcomes as well as student support has been developed. However, there are still shortcomings with regard to incorporating the review results into the improvements. For example, the body responsible for including the results has not been clearly defined and system and mechanism of review is underdeveloped. The University’s current challenge is to create a system and mechanism to reflect the feedback from review results in order to implement concrete improvements. In addition, the maximum number of credits students can register for per year in the Department of Pharmacy in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences should be improved from the perspective of substantiating the credit system. Also, issues need improvement regarding student enrollment.

In the future, by meeting the above-mentioned challenges, the University is expected to further improve the quality of its education and research.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made social contributions and collaborated with local governments and communities through students’ volunteer efforts to solve problems, and these activities have had positive educational effects on the students through their exchanges with local residents. For example, the Koma River Project began with students volunteering to clean the riverbank and

developed into a variety of initiatives, all with the common focus on the Koma River, the symbol of the area. The activity was selected as a part of the Whole River Revitalization Project by Saitama Prefecture, which led to the extension of the Koma River Furusato (hometown) Walking Trail along the river. In addition, students from the Faculty of Contemporary Policy Studies, in collaboration with local communities, contributed to local revitalization through efforts such as the cultivation of agricultural crops on fallow fields around the Koma River.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- Each department in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has a system called “credits by examination” whereby students earn credits for subjects they have failed by passing the examinations in the same subjects the following year and beyond. Granting credits for passing the examination without attending the class is not appropriate and should be improved considering the purpose of the credit system.
- The maximum number of credits a student is allowed to take per a year is set at 49 in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, however the maximum could be 55 if “credits by examination” are included. In addition, Pharmaceutical Mathematics, an elective required subject of two credits, is stipulated as being not counted in the maximum number of credits students are allowed to take. Yet, nearly all students take this subject, making the maximum number of credits per year as high as 51. This should be improved considering the purpose of the credit system.

Enrollment

- In the Department of Mathematics in the Faculty of Science during the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.29 and 1.27 respectively. These numbers should be improved.
- In the master’s programs in the Graduate School of Science, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.46. This number should be improved.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- During the last five years, the average of the ratios of the of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is high at 1.21 in the entire Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and 1.25 in the School of Pharmacy, and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.22 in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. These numbers must be improved.