

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

Surugadai University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Saitama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2014	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2015 – March.31.2022)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Surugadai University

Overview

Surugadai University (hereafter, the University) was established in 1987 as a college with a single faculty, the Faculty of Law, and a founding spirit of “education with love.” After its establishment, it created several faculties, departments, and graduate schools, and reorganized its academic and administrative units. In 2012, the University had five faculties, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Media and Information Studies, the Faculty of Contemporary Cultural Studies, and the Faculty of Psychology; three graduate schools, the Graduate School of Economics, the Graduate School of Contemporary Cultural Studies, and the Graduate School of Psychology; and one professional graduate school, the Law School. In 2013, it established the Faculty of Economics and Management, developed from the Faculty of Economics, and ceased to admit students to the Law School. In 2014, it established the Graduate School of General Policy Studies, developed by the Graduate School of Economics and the Graduate School of Contemporary Cultural Studies. The University conducts its research and education activities at multiple campuses, including one in Hanno City, Saitama Prefecture, and another in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University’s faculty and staff members have made continuous efforts to offer “hands-on” instruction to students by following the founding spirit and educational purpose of cultivating talented persons with intellectual knowledge and an international perspective. Moreover, the University values regional cooperation, as it hopes to be a “university at the core of the local communities.” In particular, it is highly commendable that the University cultivates a wide-range of talented persons who play central roles in local community activities by implementing “local internship” programs and conducting the “Vitality in Town project” (or “Town Project”) that aims to revitalize local communities. However, it has some issues to address, including the student enrollment and admission (e.g., the challenge of enrollment management) and the development of a secure financial base. JUAA hopes that the University will further develop by making constant efforts and reforms.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that through various social cooperation activities, the University has realized its policy on social cooperation, actively given intellectual and human resources back to the society, and further deepened its involvement in the local communities. For example, the University established the “Center for Regional Cooperation” to promote social cooperation through whole university, aiming at a “university at the core of regional revitalization” and a “university at the core of local knowledge.” In particular, the University has engaged in various activities, including “local internship” programs, “Town Project,” and town revitalization events in order to allow students to actively go into the local communities and interact with local residents, and it has achieved success in attracting many participants. Since 2014, the University has allowed local residents to use its facilities more easily and further enriched its social cooperation and contribution activities by issuing an “S Card” to those who apply for permission to use the University’s facilities.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Psychology, the policy for awarding degrees does not state learning outcomes such as knowledge and skills to be developed by the time of program completion. This should be improved.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.89 in the Faculty of Law and at 0.32 in the Graduate School of Psychology. This situation should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- In documents such as “Policies for Fiscal Consolidation” and “Policies for Deciding a Budget for the 2013 Fiscal Year,” the University stipulates its management challenges for the next five years. In particular, the University, anticipating a significant decline in revenue because of declining enrollment, has pronounced the attainment of “being in the black” as the budgetary goal in terms of the difference between imputed income and expenditure in order to achieve continuation and sustainable growth. The University has set a concrete target to reduce expenditure on education and research, administration, and personnel. JUAA expects the University to study the budget and its balance each year and to continually revise its plan in order to achieve the goal of “being in the black.”

Area of Serious Concern

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Psychology, a research instruction plan has not been formulated. This must be corrected, so that instructions for research and writing for degree seeking theses will be given based on the plan.