

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

Tokyo Polytechnic University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, 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 Tokyo Polytechnic University

Overview

Tokyo Polytechnic University (hereafter, the University) has its roots in the Konishi Professional School of Photography, which was founded in 1923. With its founding spirit intact, it was renamed Tokyo Polytechnic University in 1977. Since then, the University's basic mission has been: "to cultivate professionals who are useful to society; to educate talented, practical persons who take active part in society's development by using cutting-edge technologies and media; and to cultivate creative persons of talent who contribute to the creation of new fields in which technological and artistic knowledge, skills, and expressions are combined; as well as to establish a firm academic foundation for the study." As such, the University has engaged in education and research to aim at integrating engineering and arts into its basic mission. Currently, it has campuses in Atsugi City, Kanagawa Prefecture, and Nakano Ward, Tokyo, with two faculties, the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Arts, and two graduate schools, the Graduate School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Arts.

The University has many unique characteristics. Four centers, Joint Research Center for High-technology, the Wind Engineering Research Center, the Center for Nano Science and Technology, and the Center for Hyper Media Research, were all established by grants from the "Project to Enhance and Promote Private University Academic Research" by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and are attached to the Graduate School of Engineering. These centers have had great success in publishing a number of academic articles, and conducting national and international collaborative research with other academic institutions. The faculty members in the fields of both engineering and the arts have engaged in various kinds of social cooperation and contribution, using their respective specializations and giving the fruits of their education and research back to society.

However, the University has several issues to address. For example, although the University has made efforts to develop organizations and teaching, these efforts have not been made in accordance with the direction and objectives that the constitutive members of the University share and understand. Moreover, due to lack of such direction and objectives, these efforts have not been reviewed and readjusted systematically enough. In addition, the Department of Manga in the Faculty of Arts has a shortage of one faculty member, preventing it from meeting the legal requirements. With regard to the student enrollment management, the University has admitted more undergraduate students than student enrollment cap. Thus, the University should build systems of examining the issues it faces.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University has taken initiatives to clarify the priority of suggested improvements. In particular, it established "Subcommittee on Task Clarification" under "Self-study Committee" in 2013. JUAA hopes that the University will grow further, by tackling the challenges it faces and embracing its strengths, while making improvements and enhancements.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Organization

- It is commendable that the University has achieved great success in education and research by using the opportunity brought by grants from the "Project to Enhance and Promote Private University Academic Research" by MEXT. In particular, the University established four centers attached to the Graduate School of Engineering

that serve as the base for the production of new technologies. Through these centers, researchers have been able to publish a significant number of academic articles and actively conduct collaborative research with other institutions both nationally and internationally.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to give the fruits of its research and education back to society. The University has formulated the “Tokyo Polytechnic University Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration Policy” as its policy for social cooperation and contribution. Following this policy, it has developed various activities to contribute to the local communities. In particular, faculty members use their specializations to take active roles as committee members, evaluators, and examiners for events held by local governments and local associations. The faculty members have also actively engaged in joint research and funded studies and developed systematic activities for social cooperation and contribution.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Faculty of Engineering, both the Department of Life Science and Sustainable Chemistry and the Department of Architecture state that they value the cultivation of ethics in their policies on degree award, but they do not state such values in their curriculum design policies in concrete terms. This should be improved.
- Throughout the faculties and graduate schools, the content included in the syllabi varies in specificity, depending on the faculty and subject matter. This should be improved by fully developing the contents included and maintaining consistency.
- The graduate school regulations define the number of credits a student earns by taking a subject; however, they do not state that one credit is constituted by the educational content that requires forty-five hours of learning. Furthermore, they do not state the required learning hours for one credit according to the educational methods respectively. This should be improved.
- Neither the Graduate School of Engineering nor the Graduate School of Arts has been clearly stated the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations. This situation should be improved, by clearly stating them in the Handbook for Registration and other handbooks.
- In the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Arts, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the University before completing their dissertation requirements within the time limit set by the University. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have enrollment status, they are granted “course-based” doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having the course-based doctoral program, the University should create measures to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- In the Graduate School of Engineering, the admission policy has not been formulated. Such policy should be formulated, taking into account its appropriate relationships with the policy on degree award and the curriculum design policy. After formulation, the University should make it available to the public including those who take entrance exams, by stating it in the Guidelines for Student Admission and on the University's home page.
- In the Graduate School of Engineering, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low—in particular, at 0.32 in the master's program and at 0.24 in the doctoral program. This situation should be improved.

Area of Serious Concern

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The Department of Manga in the Faculty of Arts is short one faculty member that is needed to satisfy the legal requirement. This must be corrected.

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is high in several departments in the Faculty of Engineering—namely, at 1.24 in the Department of Life Science and Sustainable Chemistry, at 1.21 in the Department of Architecture, and at 1.42 in the Department of Applied Computer Science. It is also high in several departments in the Faculty of Arts—namely, at 1.25 in the Department of Imaging Art, at 1.21 in the Department of Animation, at 1.26 in the Department of Game, and at 1.26 in the Department of Manga. Moreover, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.34 in the Department of Applied Computer Science in the Faculty of Engineering and at 1.25 in the Department of Manga in the Faculty of Arts. This situation must be corrected.