

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

Nakamura Gakuen University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukuoka, 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 Nakamura Gakuen University

Overview

Nakamura Gakuen University (hereafter, the University) originated out of Nakamura Gakuen, a legally incorporated educational institution founded in 1953. In 1957, Nakamura Gakuen Junior College was established, and in 1965, Nakamura Gakuen University was established with a single faculty, the Faculty of Home Economics. Since then, the University has established other faculties and graduate schools and reorganized its academic and administrative units. Currently, it consists of three faculties, the Faculty of Nutrition Sciences, the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Business, Marketing and Distribution, and three graduate schools, the Graduate School of Nutrition Sciences, the Graduate School of Business, Marketing and Distribution, and the Graduate School of Human Development. The campus is located in Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the University has engaged in research and educational activities, following the founding spirit, which emphasizes “the foundation of human education,” “basis of educational practice,” and “basics of research and education.”

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in the 2007, JUAA regards the University as unique since it actively promotes social contributions to local communities. In particular, the “Shokuiku-kan,” a cafeteria for students, is used as a place to educate students and local residents on developing their ability to self-manage meals and food intake. Moreover, the “Nutrition Clinic,” a medical center, aims to improve health conditions of local residents. For example, it offers instruction for combating obesity and for managing personal health, by teaching about the ways to improve nutritional intake and change life-styles. However, the University has some issues to address, including over-enrollments in some faculties and the lack of regulations in some areas. JUAA hopes that the University will make improvements to address these issues.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has taken active steps toward making social contributions to local communities, following its educational purposes. For example, the Nutrition Clinic, which is established within the University, aims to improve health conditions of local residents and implements programs that offer instruction for anti-obesity and health management by improving nutritional intake and encouraging life style changes. Moreover, the clinic is used by the Faculty of Nutrition Sciences to provide early clinical education and a clinical practicum outside the University, and as such it has played a role in motivating students to learn and enhancing their practical skills. In addition, the “Shokuiku-kan,” a cafeteria for students, is open to not only the students but also the public, including local residents. In addition, it has held public lectures, and has served as a place to cultivate the self-management skills necessary for a healthy and enriched eating style. Furthermore, the Center for Medicinal Meals Sciences disseminates information about dietary education from the perspective that meals and foods can serve as medicine.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The maximum number of credits students can register for per year has been set high at fifty in the Faculty of Education. It should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- In the all graduate schools or programs, criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertation have not been clearly stated for the students. This situation should be improved by clearly stating them in the Student Handbook and other handbooks by each graduate school and program.
- In the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Nutrition Science, some students complete all the requirements except dissertation, and leave the institute before completing their dissertation requirement 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 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 doctoral programs, the university should create measure to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is high at 1.26 in the Faculty of Business, Marketing, and Distribution. This should be improved. In addition, the ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.68. This should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- No written rules or processes have been clearly written regarding the appointment (and selection) of the graduate school chairs. This should be improved.