

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

Fukuyama University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Hiroshima, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2013	
Accreditation Status: unaccredited	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Fukuyama University

Areas of Serious Concern

Faculty and faculty organization

- As of January 2014, Fukuyama University (hereafter, the University) falls short of two full-time faculty members to meet the number of faculty members required by the Standards for the Establishment of Universities. Also, in order to meet the number of full-time faculty members required by the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools, both the Masters' program in the Department of Civil Engineering and the Masters' program in the Department of Architecture fall short by one faculty member each. That is, the University has a lot of faculty shortage, and does not meet the statutes requiring the (proper) number of full-time faculty members. This situation must be improved. This shortage of full-time faculty members was pointed out in the previous university accreditation process, and the University indeed responded by hiring several full-time faculty members on January 15, 2014. However, these new hires were made through a process different from the "Procedure of Human Resources Related Matters for the Annual Plans of Faculties and Schools" that was formulated in April 2012. This does not show that the University is probable to organize its faculty members to meet its education and research needs. The University must correct its hiring practices so that it can create faculty organization in a planned manner based on the defined procedures.

Enrollment

- The University must improve its significant under-enrollment situation, which has continued in multiple faculties. Across the entire University, in the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.64, and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is also low at 0.63. The numbers are also low in several academic units: In the entire Faculty of Economics, these numbers are low at 0.71 and 0.68 respectively. In the Faculty, the ratios of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are also low at departmental levels: In the Department of Economics at 0.58, in the Department of International Economics at 0.49, and in the Department of Tax Accounting at 0.63. The five-year average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are also low in the Faculty of Human Culture and Sciences, at 0.70 and 0.65 respectively. The numbers are also low in the Department of Human Culture, at 0.67 and 0.62, and in the Department of Media and Information Studies, at 0.52 and 0.50 respectively. The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.84 in the Department of Psychology. The five-year average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are also low in the Faculty of Engineering, at 0.55 and 0.55 respectively. These numbers are low in the Department of Electronic Engineering and Robotics, at 0.38 and 0.40; in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, at 0.68 and 0.58; in the Department of Computer Science, at 0.66 and 0.69; and in the Department of Mechanical Systems Engineering, at 0.54 and 0.54. The numbers are low in the Faculty of Life Science and Biotechnology, at 0.69 and 0.74 respectively, with the Department of Biotechnology, at 0.44 and 0.46, and the Department of Nutrition and Life Science, at 0.49 and 0.57. In the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, these numbers are also low at 0.68 and 0.55.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- The maximum number of yearly credits which students can register for has been set high in the following academic units: at fifty credits at the Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Marine Bio-Science, at fifty-four at the Department of Nutrition and Life Science, and at fifty-four in the fourth year of the Faculty of Economics. In addition, for students transferring into the third year of the undergraduate program, the number of credits allowed is high at fifty-four. It is desirable that the University should improve this situation in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- The graduate schools have not made unique efforts to improve their distinctive educational content and methods. It is desirable that the University should improve this situation.
- In the Graduate School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations have not been clarified. Each graduate school should clarify the criteria and state them in the student handbooks and other handbooks so that students are informed in advance.

Enrollment

- In the Master's program in the Graduate School of Engineering, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.19. The ratio is also low at 0.06 in the doctoral program. It is desirable that the University should improve this situation.

Administration and finance

- The University regularly formulates its action plans in order to resolve the issue of financial imbalance of revenue and expenditure. However, it does not state a concrete goal with numerical objectives. In order to make the efforts effective, it is desirable that the University clearly state the numerical objectives it aims at achieving to formulate a mid- and long-term financial plan.