

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

Gakushuin Women's College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2025	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2033)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Gakushuin Women's College

Overview

Gakushuin Women's College has established three diploma, curriculum, and admission policies for its undergraduate and graduate schools based on its mission, and provides education based on systematically designed curricula appropriate for degrees. The College presents course plan models in each department for students to study in a sequential way and offers course guidance for students of each year through orientations and other sessions to promote their learning motivation.

To achieve student learning outcomes, the College has revamped its curricula for common subjects since AY2023, with approaches including the launch of a data science education program, simultaneous interactive lessons with overseas students, and Independent Study. Notably, Independent Study introduced to the social studies seminar group in AY2023 is designed as a preparatory stage for specialized courses to teach inquiry-based research and presentations under the guidance of an interdisciplinary team of faculty members in light of career development. This is a highly commendable initiative that assists students with their self-directed learning.

The College monitors student learning outcomes by checking the credit status of graduation requirements, evaluating theses and other academic work, measuring grade point averages (GPA), as well as conducting assessment tests as an objective indicator.

In terms of internal quality assurance, the Administrative Committee was established as a promotion body comprised of the president, vice president, deans, academic affairs directors, and other officials, while the Self-Study Committee chaired by the vice president is in charge of inspection and assessment activities.

However, the inspections and assessments focus mainly on the progress of tasks based on project plans, and many items pertaining to JUAA's University Standards are not fully inspected and assessed regularly and systematically. No regular inspections and assessments are conducted for teacher training courses as well. As a body promoting internal quality assurance, the Administrative Committee is tasked with delivering advice and instructions to each division, but the specific improvement process is unclear, highlighting the body's insufficient improvement efforts. The committee also plays a central role in carrying out external assessment tests and questionnaires at the time of graduation, but the results are merely reported to faculty and staff members at a briefing

session, and the IR Database created by the Office Operations Section is not effectively used for educational improvements and other purposes. The Administrative Committee should cooperate with the Self-Study Committee and the Teacher Training Committee to operate a support mechanism for the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle.

In addition, the College does not conduct faculty development (FD) activities for graduate school education, and fails to define the qualifications for research supervisors and assistant research supervisors in the graduate school. These issues should be addressed.

Notable Strengths

Teaching and Learning

- Independent Study for second-year undergraduate students introduced to the social studies seminar group in AY2023 is designed as a preparatory stage for specialized courses to teach inquiry-based learning focusing on approaches to professions and careers through academic interests under the guidance of an interdisciplinary team of faculty members. It is commendable that this distinctive course provides practical lessons to raise students' learning motivation in light of career development and contributes to the development of self-directed learning and interdisciplinary skills.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The College's internal inspections and assessments focus mainly on the progress of project plans, and many items pertaining to JUAA's University Standards are not fully inspected and assessed regularly and systematically. No regular inspections and assessments are conducted for teacher training courses as well. Moreover, the college-wide support and coordination mechanism is ineffective for the PDCA cycle to be operated by the Administrative Committee, a body promoting internal quality assurance, in cooperation with the Self-Study Committee and the Teacher Training Committee, and various types of data gathered to monitor learning outcomes have not been used to improve the College's education. This situation raises questions about whether its internal quality assurance efforts lead to educational improvements. The College should address these issues by effectively operating the

internal quality assurance system led by the Administrative Committee to enhance its education and achieve the learning outcomes.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- There are no qualification criteria stated for the graduate school's research and assistant research supervisors other than the following: research supervisors must be members of the Graduate School Committee, while assistant research supervisors must be members of the Graduate School Committee or experts recognized by the committee as suitable for external appointment. This issue should be addressed by defining specific qualification criteria.
- The graduate school holds FD sessions for each program, but these activities are insufficient for improving educational content, methods, and other aspects. This issue should be addressed with FD activities focusing on graduate school education.