

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

Utsunomiya Kyowa University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tochigi, 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 Utsunomiya Kyowa University

Overview

Utsunomiya Kyowa University sets forth its mission and purpose based on its future vision, and has established three diploma, curriculum, and admission policies to achieve them. The University promotes its mission, purpose, and policies in the Student Handbook and offers explanations to students in the president's address delivered to first- or second-year classes, while sharing this information with faculty and staff members through opportunities to attend the faculty council held every April as well as the president's address. In accordance with the policies, the University designs curricula to provide education appropriate for each degree, and develops a curriculum map and course chart for each faculty to ensure the connection between student learning outcomes and curricula, with these illustrations included in the Student Handbook. The University also informs students during new student orientation and provides guidance each semester for students to deepen their understanding of the systematic and sequential curricula.

To achieve the learning outcomes, the Faculty of City Life Studies adopts various approaches to educational methods, such as actively incorporating community cooperation activities into its curricula and adopting practical lesson formats, and includes rubrics in syllabuses to monitor and evaluate the outcomes so that faculty members and students can mutually check the status of learning. Students in the Faculty of Child Studies create their portfolios each year, and the faculty holds presentations for graduation research to conduct reviews and assess the achievement of the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy. The faculty also actively solicits the opinions of students and off-campus stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the learning outcomes more objectively, and uses the feedback to make improvements, with these efforts yet to produce specific outcomes.

JUAA's latest university evaluation confirms that the University's community cooperation initiatives contribute to students' motivated and effective learning as well as attracting new applicants. The University also incorporates community cooperation into its educational and research activities and student enrollment, and this approach is highly commendable as a meaningful and sustainable initiative to realize its mission and purpose.

There are issues regarding finance and student enrollment (quota management),

however. The University's financial situation shows operating expenditures consistently exceeding the operating income. The reviewed balance sheet presented in a medium-term financial plan inadequately resolves this issue, with initiatives outlined in the plan making little progress. In terms of quota management, the Faculty of Child Studies faces persistently insufficient quota fulfillment, and is promoting open campus events and other measures. Community cooperation and social contribution activities could help secure the enrollment quotas, but the faculty is currently focused only on providing information to prospective students as a direct approach. The University plans to reduce its freshman enrollment cap in AY2027, but is expected to take urgent action to improve its management in light of the current financial goals and quota management.

There are other issues in regard to the internal quality assurance system. The University is working to develop and improve a university-wide internal quality assurance system, but the roles of the Internal Quality Assurance Meeting and the Self-Study Committee positioned within the system are unclear. Divisional inspections and assessments are often left to each faculty's discretion, with individual faculty members merely improving their own educational and research activities. The University is expected to upgrade its internal quality assurance system, while overhauling the structure of its education and research organizations to enhance the functions for formulating policies, plans, and measures from a university-wide perspective.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University sets out "Community Cooperation and Social Contribution" as a key item in the five-year medium-term plan starting in AY2022, and is actively engaged in meeting various challenges and promoting revitalization in Utsunomiya City (including surrounding areas) through activities that include "Machinaka Seminar," a distinctive program in the Faculty of City Life Studies, and "Tiny" in the Faculty of Child Studies aimed at supporting children with disabilities and their families. These commendable initiatives have taken root in campus-wide activities, and their close connection to the curricula effectively encourages students' motivated and effective learning and attracts new students interested in these activities.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- Under the internal quality assurance policy, the Internal Quality Assurance Meeting is positioned as an organization responsible for university-wide internal quality assurance, and the Self-Study Committee is defined as an organization in charge of implementing university-wide self-studies, but there are discrepancies between the policy and regulations and the actual status, and the roles and authority of the two organizations are unclear. The University should make improvement efforts to develop and operate an effective internal quality assurance structure based on the policy and regulations to ensure the appropriateness and effectiveness of the internal quality assurance system and the objectivity of self-studies.
- The meeting bodies tasked with formulating policies, plans, and specific improvement methods from a university-wide perspective based on each faculty's self-study results are not clearly defined, revealing insufficient university-wide coordination and support for the faculties to plan, design, and implement their educational programs. This issue should be addressed with support for the faculties provided from a university-wide perspective under the internal quality assurance promotion structure to ensure the appropriateness and validity of each faculty's initiatives based on established standards.

Recommendations

Student Enrollment

- The average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years and the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the Faculty of Child Studies were low at 0.71 and 0.67, respectively, in AY2024. In response, the Internal Quality Assurance Meeting conducted university-wide deliberations on student recruitment and adopted specific improvement measures in an effort to raise interest in the University, but the measures generally focus on providing information to prospective students, and the quota fulfillment in freshman enrollment remains insufficient as confirmed in JUAA's previous university evaluation. It is recommended that the University address this issue by steadily carrying out improvement measures to achieve its target outcomes.

Management and Finance

- The University's financial situation continues to show operating expenditures consistently exceeding the operating income, as pointed out in JUAA's AY2022 Progress Report Review Results. The University has set the near-term goals of balancing the budget, but the net income after deducting depreciation is in the red in the final fiscal year of the Expected Revision to the Medium-Term Financial Plan. It is recommended that the University take urgent action to improve the balance and establish a sound financial base through such means as reviewing plans based on the current status and clarifying specific measures.