

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

Toin University of Yokohama



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, 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 Toin University of Yokohama

Overview

Toin University of Yokohama specializes in three fields of law, engineering, and physical education, and provides education with three diploma, curriculum, and admission policies established for its undergraduate and graduate schools. The University has recently undertaken educational reforms aimed at “fostering student growth in earnest” under the president’s strong leadership. The undergraduate school has established the University Policy that outlines common educational and learning goals for all its faculties and school to specify milestones as the University’s guiding principles for students, faculty, and staff, while the curriculum policy presents a unified overview across the faculties and school to describe the position of the university-wide common education MAST Program and the system and educational content of specialized subjects for the faculties and school in connection with the learning outcomes students are expected to acquire. The MAST Program offers several systematic subject groups aimed at nurturing perspectives for understanding contemporary society and makes various arrangements for students to choose subjects based on their interests; it also issues the Completion Certificate upon earning all credits designated in each subject group. The undergraduate school has established the Assessment Plan (Learning Outcomes Assessment Policy) to clarify the indicators and methods for monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes at the institutional level, curriculum level, and subject level. With efforts underway to measure the learning outcomes, the undergraduate school is expected to advance its initiatives, as it considers methods for monitoring and evaluating student learning and growth using institutional research (IR) data to make further progress. On the other hand, the graduate schools leave these initiatives to each course, and some course diploma and curriculum policies are inadequately established. There are several other areas of improvement the graduate schools should address when monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes in the dissertation screening process, such as the lack of indicators and the vague connection to the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the University makes non-routine, immediate improvements on a daily basis to steadily implement a major overhaul of the undergraduate school, with the Executive Meeting positioned as a responsible body. For example, the University shifted the strategic focus in its basic student recruitment policy

from “selection” to “connection” to promote a better understanding of its education, and Campus VISIT was organized as a new type of open campus showcasing the University’s appeal in an effort to help students avoid mismatches after enrollment. The Counseling Session for All First-Year Students is held shortly after enrollment with dedicated faculty and staff helping students engage with learning as a precautionary response to those at high risk of dropping out or withdrawing. Despite improvement efforts under the president’s strong leadership to promptly respond through daily communication, the status of inspections and assessments by divisions and other units as well as the improvement process is systematically unclear. This issue should be addressed with the Executive Meeting developing and operating a system for coordinating and supporting improvement efforts based on the regular inspection and assessment results of the divisions and other units while taking advantage of the University’s scale, thereby regularly inspecting and assessing the appropriateness of the internal quality assurance system.

There are other issues the University should address in regard to the educational methods, student enrollment, training that includes faculty development (FD), and finance. Specifically, in terms of educational methods, JUAA’s previous university evaluation pointed out the University’s efforts to ensure credit validity. The faculties and school independently offer many subjects excluded from the number of credits students can register for in a year, resulting in numerous students exceeding the upper credit limit. As for student enrollment, some faculties have a low average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years as well as a low ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. Some graduate schools also have a low ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. More efforts are expected to improve these ratios. One graduate school has not established an admission policy for each degree course and needs to urgently address this issue. In addition, the school and particular faculties and graduate schools fail to conduct FD activities to improve their faculty members’ skills and abilities, and do not carry out training for teaching assistants (TA) and student assistants (SA). Improvements should be made to provide the necessary training. As for finance, the University is still far from establishing a solid financial base to sustainably carry out its educational and research activities. It is recommended that the University diligently implement the next Medium-Term Goals and Plan in AY2025 and beyond (hereinafter, the next “Mid-Term Goals and Plan”) and the management improvement plan to establish a sound financial base.

To make swift and flexible improvements, the University places importance on daily verbal communication led by the Executive Meeting, but this approach makes the

discussion and deliberation processes less transparent, indicating there is no effective mechanism in place for sharing the University's decision-making process across organizations. To promote the development of the entire University, including the graduate schools, starting with undergraduate school reform, it is important that the University ensure the sustainability and development of its various initiatives with best practices and challenges shared university-wide through meeting minutes and documentation on decisions taken, and the initiatives implemented without depending on certain individuals. In the coming years, the University is expected to progress further by comprehensively organizing and utilizing IR data related to teaching and learning, while identifying issues in its educational and research activities, and promoting its distinctive initiatives under the improved internal quality assurance system.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- To steadily implement a major overhaul of the undergraduate school, the University is constantly making non-routine, immediate improvements through daily operations that include regular meetings, with the Executive Meeting playing a central role, but the status of inspections and assessments as well as the improvement process is systematically unclear. This issue should be addressed with the Executive Meeting developing and operating a system for coordinating and supporting improvement efforts based on enhancements made by the divisions and other units in education and learning outcomes as well as their regular inspections and assessments while taking advantage of the University's scale, thereby regularly inspecting and assessing the appropriateness of the internal quality assurance system.

Teaching and Learning

- As measures to ensure credit validity, all the faculties and school specify the maximum number of credits students can register for in a year, but subjects related to teaching and other certificates are excluded, and the faculties and school independently offer many subjects exempt from the upper credit limit. With numerous students exceeding the cap, this issue should be addressed to ensure the learning content and to secure study hours in light of the purpose of the credit system.

- The graduate schools monitor student learning outcomes in the dissertation screening process, but the Graduate School of Law does not specify the indicators for monitoring and evaluating the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy, while the Graduate School of Sport Sciences provides only a vague connection between the Evaluation Perspectives as its dissertation screening criteria and the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy. These issues should be addressed with the indicators properly specified to monitor and evaluate the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.20 in the master's course in the Graduate School of Law and should be improved. The graduate school undertakes public relations activities, such as holding information sessions for undergraduate students, displaying posters, and posting information on the University website. These efforts should be continued to produce positive results.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- Regarding FD activities conducted by the faculties, school, and graduate schools, the Faculty of Sport Sciences and the Graduate School of Sport Sciences hold sessions aimed at improving their faculty's abilities and skills related to education, but the other faculties, the school, and graduate schools fail to carry out education-related FD activities. Improvement efforts should be made to conduct these activities based on the fields of the faculties, school, and graduate schools, and to monitor the achievements through records, surveys, and other means, thereby systematically improving and invigorating educational, research, and other activities.
- Teaching assistants are assigned for classroom management, but training is not provided to appropriately manage classes and other tasks. This issue should be addressed with training properly conducted.

Recommendation

Teaching and Learning

- The Graduate School of Law has not established a diploma policy for each degree course, and needs to appropriately establish and publicize the policies for the degrees to be awarded. The curriculum policy in the Graduate School of Sport Sciences does not clarify the necessary curricula and teaching and learning methods to achieve the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy. This issue must be addressed.
- The Graduate School of Law specifies the dissertation screening criteria in the Toin University of Yokohama Bylaws on Screening and other Processes of Master's and Doctoral Theses in the Graduate School of Law, but the master's and doctoral courses have almost identical criteria, which are not publicized as well. The Graduate School of Law must appropriately establish and publicize its screening criteria, while the Graduate School of Sport Sciences needs to publicize its dissertation screening criteria.

Student Enrollment

- The Graduate School of Law has not established an admission policy for each degree course, and is required to establish and publicize appropriate policies.
- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are low at 0.85 in the entire Faculty of Biomedical Engineering and 0.77 in the faculty's Department of Clinical Engineering. The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are also low at 0.81 in the entire Faculty of Biomedical Engineering and 0.65 in the faculty's Department of Clinical Engineering. These ratios must be improved. The Executive Meeting initiates inspections and assessments, and is taking such steps as holding Campus VISIT and strengthening cooperation with partner schools. These efforts should be continued to produce positive results.

Management and Finance

- The ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund is low and trending downward, while the ratio of next fiscal year's excess of carry-over expenditures to operating income remains high. This situation highlights that the University is currently far from establishing the necessary financial base to sustainably carry out its educational and research activities. It is recommended that the University

diligently implement the next Mid-Term Goals and Plan and the management improvement plan to establish a sound financial base.