

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

Kyushu Lutheran College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kumamoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kyushu Lutheran College

Overview

Kyushu Lutheran College, founded on the spirit of “providing character education based on Christianity and cultivating persons who are willing to serve God and others to gain knowledge, nurture sentiments, and achieve peace with love,” sets forth its purpose “under the school motto of ‘Gratitude and Service,’ engaging in profound education and research on specialized arts and sciences, providing education required in work and social life, nurturing holistic, emotionally rich, internationally-minded persons, and developing individuals who can contribute widely to the improvement of welfare, society and culture.” To achieve its founding spirit and purpose, the College has strived to enhance its educational and research activities through Kyushu Lutheran College Vision 2020 (hereafter, “Vision 2020”), a ten-year medium-term plan from AY2020, following the previous seven-year mid-term plan, Kyushu Lutheran College Vision 2014 (hereafter, “Vision 2014”) from AY2014.

With respect to internal quality assurance, under the instruction of the Council for Internal Quality Assurance (hereafter, “Promotion Council”) responsible for the college-wide internal quality assurance system, the College assesses the progress of the medium-term plan and annual plans based on the medium-term plan using the Management Ledger consisting of the Annual Action Plan and Annual Assessment and Ratings. The primary assessments by the faculty and graduate school, affiliated entities, and administrative sections, the secondary assessment by members of the college-wide Committee for Inspection and Evaluation, and the comprehensive assessment by the chairman ensure the effective operation of the annual PDCA cycle. In addition, the College has established the Student’s Voice Committee and the Student and Faculty Education Improvement Study Group to reflect not only the voices of faculty members, but the opinions and views of students in its activities as well. It also promotes student volunteer activities in the regular curricula to encourage active contribution to society. It can be said that these mechanisms are functioning well.

With regard to education, the College has formulated its diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy in light of its purpose. It revises and improves these policies every academic year from the perspective that “the three policies are not static and should be reviewed and revised in response to changing

times and social demands.” In AY2019, the diploma policy was revised to reflect the College’s characteristics more clearly. In the Faculty of Humanities, a curriculum map and subject numbering were developed for students to take courses systematically and sequentially. To assess student learning outcomes, the College has established a mechanism to visualize the achievement of the competencies set out in the diploma policy based on the curriculum map, and the results are distributed to students as Learning Evaluation Sheets. Since AY2021, the College has ensured credit substantiation by limiting the number of credits students can register in a year, and indicating in the syllabus the estimated number of required study hours before and after class. Regarding the assessment of academic achievements, in AY2021 the College revised the GPA system from 5 to 12 levels and established assessment guidelines to improve its rigor and objectivity.

The College’s notable efforts include consistent student support provided throughout the four college years, such as course guidance and support for learning, student life and careers, with a faculty member assigned to each student as an adviser at the time of enrollment and in-person consultation provided. This commendable effort is regarded as one of the factors keeping the absentee and dropout rates at a low level. In AY2022, the College began using the Learning Portfolio to understand and record the progress of students’ learning, campus life, and activities through consultations, which is expected to further enhance student support. With respect to social cooperation and contribution, the College provides organizational support for student volunteer activities through the Volunteer Center and ties volunteer activities to the credits of certain regular courses as a way to provide human and economic support to volunteer clubs. These efforts are helping to create a culture and tradition that encourage students to actively participate in volunteer activities, and are highly commendable as they not only embody the College’s founding spirit but also return the outcomes of the its educational and research activities back to the local community.

There are issues the College needs to address, however. The School of Humanities revised its curriculum policy in AY2022, but the new policy does not include the School’s fundamental views on curriculum design and implementation, which should be corrected. The College’s financial situation should also be reviewed as challenges to establishing a sound financial base necessary for carrying out stable educational and research activities were identified.

Going forward, JUAA expects the College to set in place an internal quality assurance system that has undergone repeated improvements and to expand

its unique efforts leading to further enhancement of its education.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- To ensure a more fulfilling learning experience, the College assigns a faculty member to each student as an adviser at the time of enrollment. The advisers provide consistent support, such as course guidance and support for learning, student life and careers tailored to the needs of each student. In collaboration with the administrative staff of the Student Affairs Division, Academic Affairs Division, and other relevant organizations, including the Student Affairs Committee, the advisers share information about their students in the Student Support Meeting organized every term by the Student Affairs Committee and the department meetings, and make efforts to smoothly provide students with support. It is commendable that such an attentive student support system is effectively preventing dropouts.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Guided by the spirit of “Gratitude and Service” and the faculty advisers, students provide support to people with Down Syndrome and autism and their families as well as learning support for elementary and secondary school students with developmental disorders in the local community through extracurricular activities officially approved by the College. These long-standing activities are addressing social issues in the community and contribute to building trust with local residents. It is commendable that these activities are highly regarded in society. Moreover, in cooperation with the Volunteer Center, the College offers the compulsory Studies in Voluntarism subject and the elective Volunteer Practicum subject for first-year students to develop as persons who can contribute to society. These commendable efforts not only embody the College’s founding spirit but also return the outcomes of its educational and research activities with student participation to the local community.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The curriculum policy developed by the School of Humanities for newly-enrolled students in and after AY2022 does not include the School's fundamental views on curriculum design and implementation, and requires improvement.

University Management and Finance

- In addition to the low ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund, the rate of carried over expenditures for next year to business income remains high, and it cannot be said that the solid financial base necessary for carrying out stable educational and research activities has been established. The College should ensure the steady implementation of measures to improve its financial profile and establish a sound financial base as stipulated in its medium- and long-term financial plans.