

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

Kyoto Notre Dame University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016 – March.31.2023)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kyoto Notre Dame University

Overview

Kyoto Notre Dame University (hereafter, the University), based on the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was established in 1961 as Notre Dame Women's College with the Department of English Language and Literature. In 1999, it was renamed as Notre Dame Women's College of Kyoto. After a series of reorganizations of its faculties and departments, the University established a graduate school in 2002, at which time it developed into a university with three faculties (the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Home Sciences and Welfare, and the Faculty of Psychology) and two graduate schools (the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences [master's program only] and the Graduate School of Psychology). The University has its campus in Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture, and has represented and based its education and research activities on its founding spirit of "Virtue and Knowledge."

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University has worked for systematic self-study. In order to enforce the university-wide PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, every faculty (or department), graduate school, center, committee, and secretariat prepares a project plan or midterm plan annually, and reviews it at the end of each academic year while compiling its Report on Self-Review. Furthermore, in order to examine whether the content of the plans has been appropriately implemented, since April 2009 the University has worked with the University Council (an initiative of the president) for improvements and reforms of the issues.

It is commendable that through the activities at the Psychological Services Center and through cooperative projects with Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, the University has not only made contributions to local society by making use of its founding spirit and features in education research, but has also offered opportunities for students to work as staff or volunteers in ways that help them to mature and develop their careers.

The University still has several issues to address. It is an urgent issue to improve the decline of fulfillment rates on university, departmental, and graduate school levels. Additionally, the system for internal quality assurance and the structure to make the system function appropriately are insufficient. JUAA expects the University will improve these issues.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

The University has vigorously promoted social contribution and has worked on a wide range of projects, according to its purpose of making university-wide efforts in cooperation with the local society. For example, the University has conducted psychological consultations in the Psychological Services Center and has established the "Kogamo Club," which supports parental care and child development, and "Shizen to Asobo!," where local children interact with each other through nature observation and playing with natural materials. Also, in cooperation with Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, the University has worked to cultivate persons of talent who are skilled in medical English, and volunteers who support child patients at the Pediatric Medical Center. It is commendable that the University has not only made use of its education research to contribute to the local society, but also offers students opportunities for maturing and for developing their careers.

Suggestions for Improvement

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.36 in the master's program in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and none admitted and enrolled in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Psychology. These numbers should be improved.
- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.60 in the Department of English Language and Literature in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and at 0.06 in the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Psychology. These numbers should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- While the financial plan for the University has been formulated, the financial plan for the entire corporate body has not. However, since the sum total of the financial scale of the affiliated elementary school, junior high school and high school is almost equivalent amount of the University, the entire corporate body should formulate the financial plan in order to restore the finances to good health.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Self-study concerning education and research at each department and graduate school level have been conducted, but the resulting issues are not shared across the entire university. Also, a review process that clearly defines the body that is responsible for examining education and research as well as management has not been created. With the initiative of the Self-Study Committee, the University should establish a review system, and link the regular reviews conducted by each department and graduate school to the improvements of the entire university.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- The average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.77 and 0.76 respectively. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as a whole, both ratios are low at 0.75 and 0.73 respectively; specifically in the Department of English Language and Literature, both ratios are low at 0.67, and in the Department of Cross-Cultural Studies both ratios are low at 0.76 and 0.74 respectively. In the Faculty of Home Sciences and Welfare in the Department of Home Sciences and Welfare, the ratios are low at 0.79 and 0.81 respectively, and in the Faculty of Psychology, in the Department of Psychology, both ratios are low at 0.78 and 0.76 respectively. These numbers must be improved.