

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

Tenri University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Nara, 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 Tenri University

Overview

Tenri University originated in 1925 as the Tenri School of Foreign Language. In 1949, Tenri University (hereafter, the University) was established as an institution with a single faculty, the Faculty of Letters. The University established new faculties and a graduate school and reorganized its faculties. In 2015, the Graduate School of Physical Education was established, making the University consist of four faculties and two graduate schools. The University has two campuses: Somanouchi Campus and Taiikugakubu Campus, both located in Tenri City, Nara Prefecture.

The University has developed education and research activities based on its founding spirit and purposes. In particular, the University reaffirmed in 2005 that it would thoroughly implement “Tenri Spirit,” whose motto is “devotion to others” acquired by fostering religious and international awareness.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in the 2008, the University has keenly addressed the issues JUAA pointed out at the time, and has endeavored to make improvements and reforms. In particular, committees such as the Faculty Development (FD) Committee have played a central role in such reforms. The University has offered the English Education Program, which improves students’ proficiency in English by allowing them to select subjects based on their English levels and program needs. It has also offered six development programs (interdisciplinary, inter-faculty programs), which target highly motivated students who are eager to develop their personalities and abilities as they embark on their future trajectories. JUAA hopes that the University will maintain its approaches and continue to consider education programs that will implement its unique founding spirit in educational practices while continuing to reflect on its origins and foundations.

However, the University still has several issues to address. Research guidance plans are not clarified in the Graduate School of Clinical Human Studies. In the Information Library as well as its branch library, staffing and staff responsibilities are completely outsourced. The University has not formulated unified regulations on research ethics, and has not organized a committee on research ethics. In order to improve these matters, JUAA hopes that the University will stipulate policies on internal quality assurance, implement organized and regular self-studies, and build a university-wide system for internal quality assurance.

Notable Strength

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to realize its pronounced founding spirit of “international awareness” by instituting interdisciplinary programs that are offered across the faculties. For example, in the English Education Program, students, regardless of their faculties, departments, or majors, improve their proficiency in English by selecting classes appropriate to their English levels and program needs. The University has also created six development programs with six themes (one theme per program) to help students decide their future paths and actively participate in the international society. The University’s wide-ranging learning opportunities have broadened student interests and concerns, enhanced their personalities and abilities, and influenced their selections of research themes and future plans.

Suggestions for Improvements

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The Graduate School of Clinical Human Studies has not clearly informed students of research guidance plans. This should be improved.

Education and Research Environment

- The library on Somanouchi Campus (Information Library) and the library on Taiikugakubu Campus do not have a certified librarian with professional knowledge on their staff. This should be improved.
- The University has held a workshop on open solicitation for the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Aid by the Japanese government and a seminar on the compliance with regulations for the use of research funds; however, it has not formulated its research ethics regulations. Moreover, it has not created a research ethics committee. This situation should be improved in order to disseminate research ethics throughout the University.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the University has established a Self-Study Committee, it has not conducted regular, systematic, and university-wide self-study activities. Therefore, it cannot be said that the University's self-study mechanisms are functional. Moreover, the University does not have a system through which the findings of the Self-Study Committee are fed back to be shared with each administrative and/or academic unit in order to make improvements. This situation should be improved, with the University setting policies and developing a university-wide system for internal quality assurance.