

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

Kobe-Shinwa Women's University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Hyogo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2014	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2015 – March.31.2022)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kobe-Shinwa Women's University

Overview

As the successor to Kobe-Shinwa Women's School (founded in 1887), Kobe-Shinwa Women's University (hereafter, the University) was established with a single faculty in 1966, located in Kobe city, Hyogo Prefecture. Thereafter, the University established new departments, faculty, and graduate schools, and has gone through a substantial reorganization. Currently, the University contains two faculties, the Faculty of Literature and the Faculty of Human Development and Education, and one graduate school, the Graduate School of Literature. The University inherited its school motto from the original women's school: "Sincerity, perseverance, and compassion." The University has formulated a ten-year conceptualization, five-year implementation plan for future development, and has clarified several issues to address and rectify.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University has made notable efforts to contribute to society in cooperation with the local community. For example, it played an important social function by implementing childcare support to the community through the Child Rearing Support Center, which also helps students interested in early childhood learning. However, several issues remain, including the effort to substantiate the content of credit, faculty development activities at the level of each faculty and graduate school, and the management of admission quotas.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Childcare support, offered in cooperation with Kobe city, plays a very important social role in providing a preparatory stage for a preschool-aged child to make a smooth transition to kindergarten or nursery school and has produced steady results in the local community. It is also commendable that students who engage in this social contribution benefit greatly in understanding childcare activities in kindergarten or nursery school through these experiences.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The limit on the maximum number of credits a student can register per a year is 50 credits for the first year, 55 credits for the second and third years, and no limit for the fourth year. This should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having the credit system.
- In each faculty and in the Psychological Clinics Major in the Graduate School of Literature, the organizational effort to improve the content and method of education is not sufficient. Thus, it is expected the University will revitalize faculty development activities to improve and maintain the quality of education.

Administration and Finance

- The balance sheet ratios are below the average of private universities with the Faculty of Literature and other faculties. The rate of the carried over expenditures for next year to the imputed income, is over 100 percent, and "the sufficiency rate of financial assets against required reserve fund" is hovering at very low level. In

order to reconstruct its financial base, the University should make further efforts to achieve the objectives listed in the Prospect of Restoring the Finances to Health formulated by the University in June 2014.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- The average of the ratios of last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshmen admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.34 and 1.30 respectively in the Department of Childhood Education in the Faculty of Human Development. These numbers must be improved.