

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

**Komazawa University**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2028)	

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Komazawa University**

### **Overview**

With an educational mission focused on Buddhist doctrines and the spirit of Zen, Komazawa University aims to “provide far-reaching knowledge while extensively studying and researching specialized education and using human-focused education to build character through Buddhism”. The Komazawa 2030 long-term vision was created to achieve the University’s mission and purpose and each division and graduate school’s goals, etc. To help realize that vision, the University established the “Five Reform Policies,” created the “Komazawa University Policy System (2018 - 2021)” and the “Komazawa University Mid-Term Business Plan (2018 - 2021)” to further help achieve those policies, and expanded operations based on the long-term plan for the future.

For internal quality assurance, the University created the “Internal Quality Assurance Policy” in December 2018 as a University-wide policy centered on the President with the goal of creating a cycle of constant improvements and reviews in educational operations. It also established the Education Operations Board in January 2019 as a University-wide organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance to systematically advance improvements and refinements based on checks and reviews results as well as implement initiatives toward improving learning outcomes and education fulfillment. However, while the Education Operations Board has been directing internal quality assurance, the assistance it provided each undergraduate and graduate division for improvements based on results of checks and reviews has been inadequate. While the rapid implementation of the new internal quality assurance system did contribute to this issue, moving forward the Education Operations Board must better assist each organization and allow closer cooperation between organizations based on the “Internal Quality Assurance Policy” so that each undergraduate and graduate division can steadily implement improvements and refinements based on the results of checks and reviews.

Regarding education, all undergraduate and graduate divisions have organized their curricula appropriately based on the University’s mission and purpose and in accordance with the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy). The University works to multilaterally ascertain learning outcomes by measuring and reviewing them in undergraduate programs at the organization level (University), the undergraduate level (division and department),

and the course level (individual courses) under a newly established assessment policy. However, this policy should be refined in the future because each indicator does not have established numerical targets.

The University offers some exceptional opportunities such as collaborations between organizations in the University like the undergraduate divisions, graduate divisions, research labs inside the University, the library, and the museum and students and the alumni association as well as a variety of activities for social cooperation and social contribution. In particular, the University's cooperative efforts with Setagaya City and its proactive work to provide a range of social cooperation and social contribution opportunities in the community like "Kids University" and "Sports Festival" are extremely valuable. The University is also currently working to establish a "Social Cooperation Center" (provisional name) that will unite these varied efforts under one roof and this center is expected to strengthen the University's characteristic efforts.

However, there are several issues that should be addressed. First, plans to assess the value of credits in some undergraduate and graduate divisions are insufficient. Improvements must also be made to the issues involving departments and majors that have trouble enrolling transfer students and the numerous graduate divisions with low ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap.

The University can expect to make significant progress in the future by creating a system aimed at implementing the newly established internal quality assurance system, organically connecting the PDCA cycle of undergraduate and graduate divisions with the University's PDCA cycle, and working to enact initiatives toward improvement and refinement.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- The University offers many initiatives like "Kids University" where student groups provide a wealth of unique, hands-on programs to help elementary school students with their summer homework assignments and the "Sports Festival" organized by the Sports Club that aims to increase interaction between the University and the local community. This also leads to the realization of the growth of the students who participated in such initiatives. Started in 2016 with the goal of "Creating a City for Everyone," the "Sports Festival" in particular offers a chance for people of all ages to interact with the University via cooperation with 20 local organizations, support

from the “Setagaya Platform” (a cooperative effort between Setagaya City, a number of local Universities, and local businesses), and a variety of events such as sporting events and opportunities to experience sports for people with disabilities. University resources are used effectively in this way according to the needs of the local society and the University uses a variety of initiatives to provide value to society.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- The Education Operations Board was established as the organization responsible for advancing internal quality assurance and while it is responsible for internal quality assurance and supporting improvements based on the results of checks and reviews from each undergraduate and graduate division, the Board does not provide adequate support. The Education Operations Board must improve the assistance it provides each organization and allow organizations to cooperate more closely based on the “Internal Quality Assurance Policy” so that each undergraduate and graduate division can enact improvements and refinements based on results of checks and reviews.

### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- While each faculty and department limits the number of credits students can register for in one academic year, courses like teacher training allow students to exceed the credit limit and a number of students in the Department of History, Faculty of Letters and the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law registered for course loads that exceeded the limit. While the syllabus contains the material to study before and after class, the number of study hours, etc., plans to assess the value of credits are insufficient and must be improved in light of the purpose of the credit system.

### *Student Enrollment*

- In the last five years, no transfer students have entered the Department of Japanese Literature, Faculty of Letters or the Department of Geography’s Regional Environment Research Major and the number of transfer students entering the Department of Geography’s Regional Culture Research Major, the Department of History’s Archaeology Major, and the Department of Sociology’s Social Work Major has been significantly lower than the enrollment quota and this must be improved.

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.35 in the Graduate Division of Economics Master's Program, 0.15 in the Graduate Division of Law Master's Program, 0.35 in the Graduate Division of Business Administration Master's Program, 0.17 in the Graduate Division of Business Administration Doctoral Program, and 0.31 in Graduate Division of Legal Research and Training. In addition, no students are enrolled in the Doctoral Programs in both the Graduate Division of Business Administration and the Graduate Division of Law and the University must significantly improve graduate school quota management.