

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

Bukkyo University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2019	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1.2020 – March 31.2027)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Bukkyo University

Overview

In line with its founding principles, Bukkyo University (hereinafter referred to as the “University”) has as its mission and purpose “to contribute to the enhancement of global culture and the progress of the welfare of all the human beings in the world by realizing the target of developing proactive people with exalted personality and insight based on the lofty spirit of Buddhism.” The University has seven faculties (Faculties of Buddhism, Literature, History, Education, Sociology, Social Welfare, and Health Sciences) and four graduate schools (Graduate Schools of Literature, Education, Sociology, and Social Welfare) under its regular program, as well as a correspondence program. In AY2012, which marked the University’s 100th anniversary, the University formulated the Butsudai Vision 2022 to indicate what kind of university it aimed to become in ten years’ time, including “a university that nurtures individuals who can learn actively and are prepared to taken on challenges,” “a university that promotes distinctive research in line with its mission and history,” and “a university that provides new learning styles to achieve a lifelong learning society,” and described the measures for achieving the vision in the Action Plan for Achieving Butsudai Vision 2022 (Mid-term Plan (2013 to 2017)).

Regarding education, in order to realize the aforementioned vision, the University appropriately designs curricula that facilitate the transition from general education to specialized education in accordance with the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy), establishes Introductory Seminars as the core of first year education, and makes it easier for students to move up to higher education, and encourages active student learning by providing internship programs at companies, administrative agencies, and elementary and junior high schools as well as numerous fieldwork subjects.

As one of its distinctive endeavors, the University has established the Honen Buddhist Studies Research Center, which engages in research related to Honen’s ideas, which serve as the foundation for the University’s principles of education, and the dissemination of research findings. This is expected to lead to the development of the next generation of scholars. In terms of social cooperation and contribution, it is commendable that the University has consistently engaged in forest conservation in the area surrounding the Community Liaison Center and has regularly held lifelong learning extension courses at the Lifelong Learning Center (Shijo Extension Center).

There are, however, some issues that need to be resolved. As for education, the learning outcomes clearly indicated in the degree award policy are not adequately grasped or assessed. In addition, the graduate schools—with the exception of some departments—have not established research supervision plans, and some graduate schools do not clearly present the examination criteria related to special assignment research results. These should be established appropriately. Regarding student enrollment, quota management should be implemented appropriately for the graduate program and college transfers.

In order to address these issues, the University needs to ensure the functionality of its internal quality assurance system and engage in maintaining educational quality. However, there are serious issues with the internal quality assurance system. The University has created a system whereby the Quality Assurance Committee Community Liaison is given the responsibility of promoting internal quality assurance, and the University Assessment Committee conducts university-wide checks and reviews under the supervision of the Quality Assurance Examination Committee. However, the self-review that should form the basis of the system is only conducted when applying for university accreditation (certified evaluation and accreditation), and is thus not conducted on a regular basis. Going forward, we hope the University addresses the issues such as those pertaining to education and student enrollment through conducting regular self-study in line with the policy and procedures for internal quality assurance established in AY2019 and ensuring the functionality of the system centered around the Quality Assurance Examination Committee, and also promotes its distinctive initiatives toward developing its program even further.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Organization

- As an institution whose educational program is founded on Buddhist principles, the University aims to conduct superior education that meets social needs through enhancing research. To this end, the University established the Honen Buddhist Studies Research Center in AY2014, as an institute dedicated to the study of Honen's ideas. Full-time faculty members, researchers, and others conduct joint studies, and the research center engages in various activities including the collecting of books, the creation of a database, and the dissemination of research findings through public study meetings and a bulletin. Since the joint studies involve graduate students as well, they are expected to lead to the development of the next generation of scholars. This

endeavor by the research center contributes to the achievement of the University's founding principles and mission and purpose, and is thus commendable.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Building on the community cooperation achievements of the Community Campus Project, Community Liaison Center has entered into partnerships with Kyoto Prefecture, Nantan City, and other companies and groups and carried out forest conservation activities in central Kyoto Prefecture involving students and faculty members. The Lifelong Learning Center (Shijo Extension Center) has regularly held lifelong learning courses on Buddhism, history, art, natural science, and other topics, provided citizens with the opportunity to learn in a broad range of fields, and gathered many participants. Aiming to become an intellectual hub connected to citizens, the University has, in line with Buddhist principles, used its resources to contribute to the local community in an evolving and consistent manner. This is a commendable endeavor.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Outcome

- The Master's Program in the Graduate School of Literature does not clearly indicate the examination criteria related to special assignment research results.
- Although the faculties and graduate schools do attempt to grasp learning outcomes, efforts to grasp and assess the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy are lacking. Therefore, the faculties and graduate schools should appropriately measure learning outcomes from multiple angles.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.20 in the Master's Program in the Graduate School of Sociology, 0.22 in the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Sociology, and 0.20 in the Master's Program in the Graduate School of Social Welfare. Therefore, the University should significantly improve graduate school quota management.

- The Department of Buddhist Studies in the Faculty of Buddhism, the Department of English in the Faculty of Literature, the Department of History in the Faculty of History, the Departments of Education and Clinical Psychology in the Faculty of Education, and the Department of Social Welfare in the Faculty of Social Welfare have established enrollment quotas for college transfers. However, since the enrollment quotas have not been met for some years, the University should significantly improve quota management for college transfers.

Recommendations

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University has established an internal quality assurance structure with the Quality Assurance Committee as the responsible entity. However, self-review is only conducted when applying for university accreditation (certified evaluation and accreditation), and is thus not conducted on a regular basis. The process for making improvements based on the results of checks and reviews is unclear, and a system for enabling the Quality Assurance Committee to implement management and provide support has not been fully established. Therefore, the University should ensure that its internal quality assurance system functions effectively.

Educational Program and Outcome

- The Master's and Doctoral Programs in all the regular graduate school programs, with the exception of the Master's Program in the History Program, Graduate School of Literature, have not set forth research supervision methods and schedules in the form of a specific research supervision plan. Therefore, these should be established and clearly presented to students in advance.