

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

St. Catherine University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Ehime, 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 St. Catherine University

Overview

St. Catherine University (hereafter, the University) was established as St. Catherine Women's University with a single faculty, the Faculty of Social Welfare, in 1988 and has been operated by the Sisters of the Religious Missionaries of St. Dominic, founded in 1934. It became co-educational and changed its name to St. Catherine University in 2004 and has gone through a substantial reorganization. Currently, it has the Faculty of Human Health and Welfare Services. The campus is located in Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture, and the University engages in educational and research activities according to the founding spirit of "love and truth."

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the University has made notable efforts to promote its mission and purpose by formulating a mid- and long-term plan through the Future Planning Committee (chaired by the president) and by establishing the Department of Health and Sports in 2014. However, the University has not fulfilled its enrollment quota. It is expected that the University will continue to make systematic and planned efforts for improvement in this area.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- Various forms of support for students preparing to take the health and athletic practice trainer certification examination have been offered and have produced fruitful results, including a more than a yearlong study group, a mock examination, and individual support from the faculty. It is commendable that students who earned certifications make social contributions by working as athletic training volunteers for residents of the local community, and this kind of activity is respectable considering the University's mission and purpose.

Administration and Finance

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to clarify the model image of the University's administration staff. In particular, the Staff Development Committee solicits opinions from every member of its staff and examines how they are relevant to the founding spirit, to student support, and to self-development of the staff. The Committee consolidated the model image from those opinions and informs every staff member of this image. Further, the University made practical efforts based on the model image. For example, to realize an aspect of the image, working toward consensus in the organization, cooperation among organization was taken up as a topic in staff training sessions, where mutual cooperation were reconfirmed among staff members.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The maximum number of credits students can register for per year has been set at 48, but 4-th year students who may have trouble completing their degrees are allowed to register for more than 50 credits, with faculty council's permission. In addition, the maximum number of credits transfer students can register for per year

has been not set. These should be improved.

- In regards to the syllabus, the competencies and skills students will acquire in the class should be stated clearly given that the descriptions of vary depending on the class.

Enrollment

- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is 0.00 in the Department of Human and Social Sciences in the Faculty of Human Health and Welfare Services. This should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- The status of the newly established Educational Affairs Management Committee is not clear. The division of roles of various committees and the actual relationships among them are complicated, and some do not correspond to the regulations. In addition, gaps exist between the regulations and reality; for example, the Administrative Manager of the Department of Student Affairs defined in the regulations is not actually assigned. These should be improved.
- While the management reform policy and objectives in finances are indicated specifically in the planning document titled “Grand Design: The 2010 Mid- and Long-Term Management Plan of St. Catherine School” and “the Mid- and Long-Term Financial Plan of the University,” various financial ratios measured at the end of 2012 and 2013 reveal that the policy and objectives have not been implemented properly. To implement the formulated policy on an ongoing basis, the activities and the financial plans should be reviewed every year.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average ratio of enrolled freshman to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.69 in the Department of Social Work in the Faculty of Human Health and Welfare Services, and at 0.74 in the entire Faculty of Human Health and Welfare Services. In addition, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.71 in the Department of Social Work in the Faculty of Human Health and Welfare Services, and at 0.70 in the entire Faculty of Human Health and Welfare Services. These must be rectified.