

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

Seisen Jogakuin College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Nagano, 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 Seisen Jogakuin College

Overview

Seisen Jogakuin College (hereafter, the College) has its origin in the Seisen Jogakuin Educational Foundation, and was founded in 1938 by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Subsequently, the Seisen Jogakuin College (two-year) and the Seisen Jogakuin Childcare Special School were established. In 2003, Seisen Jogakuin College (four-year) was established as a women's college with the Faculty of Human Studies. With its campus located in Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture, it has developed its education and research activities based on its educational mission as "education of the whole person according to the principles of Christianity."

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the College has constructed a system of educational improvement based on its goal of "educating the whole-person and building a spirit of co-existence within the community." The system has two main components: the Self Evaluation Committee, which conducts self-studies and formulates improvement strategies, and the management and operation office, which formulates mid-term plans and annual operations plans. In addition to the efforts to improve upon the matters pointed out by JUAA, the College has made continuous efforts to enrich its educational content by increasing the number of courses within the Faculty of Human Studies and information dissemination through English speech and recitation contests for high school students.

The College has several strengths to commend. In particular, the College clearly states in its mission that it exists in connection with and rooted in its local community. Furthermore it has developed a wide range of local cooperation activities, meeting the needs of its respective communities, Nagano City, the Town of Shinano, and Suzaka City feedback to the College's educational practices. However, in terms of enrollment management, the under-enrollment situation has continued since the previous accreditation review, which is a serious concern. Moreover, there is a problem with payment processing and management of the faculty's individual research funds. JUAA hopes that the College will make improvements and address these issues, including to enrollment management, by making its internal quality assurance system function properly.

Notable Strength

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the College has made efforts in line with its educational mission. In particular, as a college rooted in its local community, the College has developed a wide range of community-based activities, and has constructed a system that can oversee various efforts taking place in education and research practices. For example, it has established initiatives that utilize the unique characteristics of courses in the Department of Psychology and Communication to meet the different needs of the municipal government and the community, including the creation of promotional videos for Nagano City, a forest therapy project in the Town of Shinano, and the "Campus in the Town of Warehouses" project in Suzaka City. The College links these social cooperation and contribution projects to its education and research in reasonable ways, and regards them as distinctive projects that utilize its unique characteristics. The College encourages its students to participate in the activities, and cultivates their love for their home province and their spirit of volunteerism.

Suggestions for Improvements

Education and Research Environment

- In regards to the management of individual faculty members' research funds, the College asks the faculty members to submit receipts in order to account for the items bought using their individual research funds. However, it does not conduct an actual inspection. This process lacks the institutional rigor and the College does not demonstrate that the systematic efforts are made to prevent individual research funds from being used improperly.

Administration and Finance

- The College should improve its fiscal year balance management of settled accounts by moving the imputed income and expenditure balance into its surplus. In particular, it should make its financial objectives clear, examine the extent of surplus that is achieved in its revenue and expenditure plans, and revise the plans accordingly.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- In the last five years, at the College (i.e., the Faculty of Human Studies) as a whole, the average of the ratio of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.67, and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is also low at 0.67. This situation must be corrected.