

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

Seisen University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2018	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2026)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Seisen University

Overview

Seisen University (hereafter, the University) was established based on Christian humanism, with “Veritas et Caritas (Truth and Love)” as its founding philosophy. The University consists of the Faculty of Arts and the Graduate School of Humanities, and aims to cultivate global citizens who understand diverse cultures and can independently think, judge, and make decisions through personal communication in small-group education.

The University is recognized for making university-wide efforts to steadily advance its educational and research activities based on the single fiscal-year plans outlined in the “Seisen University Grand Design,” the medium- to long-term plan formulated by the school in 2016.

As for the University’s education, the degree award policy is established in the faculty and graduate school, and the curricula are organized appropriately for each degree conferred in the five faculty departments and four graduate school programs. All course subjects are identified by numbers (numbering) and each department designs a curriculum map with related subjects diagrammed for students to make systematic course plans for studying in a sequential way. In addition, to realize the educational principle of teaching each student to develop an enduring zest for life, the University established the Wellness Center, Catholic Center, Volunteer Learning Center, Lifelong Learning Center, and International Center, with each center offering full support for practical learning outside of classes to meet students’ diverse individual interests. For example, the Wellness Center appoints female doctors, including a physician, gynecologist, and psychiatrist, and a dietician to establish a comprehensive support system that helps students manage their overall health on campus. The Learning Commons, used by students for study and group learning, as well as by faculty members, serves as a facility promoting education and research activities. The University also makes systematic efforts to participate in regional cooperation activities by co-sponsoring the “Saturday Liberal Arts College” with Tokyo’s Shinagawa Ward, where the University is located, and offering the lecture course series “Seisen Rafaela Academia,” where many adults and students participate in a variety of open lectures. It is highly commendable that the University is actively returning its educational and research outcomes to society.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. The ratios of

student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are high in many departments of the Faculty of Arts, and the University's student quotas need to be thoroughly managed. The University should also review the use of grade point averages (GPA) as a benchmark for evaluating the learning outcomes and the maximum number of credits fourth-year students can register for in a year to ensure credit validity.

As for the internal quality assurance system aimed at addressing these challenges and enhancing and verifying the quality of education and research, the University established the Internal Quality Assurance Committee in fiscal 2016. The committee provides instructions and support for improvements based on the inspection and assessment results of related committees and meetings, and has developed a mechanism to regularly inspect and assess the appropriateness of the internal quality assurance system. In the years ahead, the University is expected to effectively and consistently operate this system led by the Internal Quality Assurance Committee.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- Under the student support (student service) policy, the University assigns a female psychiatrist, gynecologist, dietician, and other healthcare professionals to the Wellness Center, where a consultation and support system is established to meet the needs of individual students concerned about various aspects of their nutritional, physical and mental well-being. This approach to help students live a safe and healthy campus life is commendable as part of the University's efforts to realize its principles through the support of small-group education.

Education and Research Environment

- The Learning Commons provides a suitable environment for students' independent study by designing group study rooms and common spaces, appointing administrative staff assistants from each faculty department to support study and group learning, and gathering a basic collection of reading materials. The common spaces are also used for in-class and out of class events as well as regular extracurricular courses. It is commendable that these approaches are expected to increase students' self-directed learning outside of class hours and enhance their educational and research activities.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- In line with the school's social cooperation and contribution policy, the Regional Collaboration Promotion Head Office utilizes the University's educational and research functions to design lifelong learning courses to organize the University's original lecture course series, "Seisen Rafaela Academia," and to co-sponsor the learning course "Saturday Liberal Arts College" with Tokyo's Shinagawa Ward, where the University is located. It is commendable that the University is actively returning its academic knowledge to society as a community-based higher institution, and receives high marks in the third-party evaluations from Shinagawa Ward.

Suggestions for Improvement

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in fiscal 2018 are high at 1.29 and 1.27, respectively, in the Department of English Language and Literature and the Department of Global Citizenship Studies, Faculty of Arts. These ratios should be lowered by having the faculty thoroughly manage student quotas.