

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

St. Luke's International University



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Tokyo, Japan |
| Accreditation Status | |
| Year of the Review: 2021 | |
| Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029) | |

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for St. Luke's International University

Overview

St. Luke's International University, grounded in the spirit of Christianity, defines its purpose as "to contribute to the health and welfare of all people, both domestically and globally, through its educational, academic, and practical activities in the fields of nursing and public health." In 2017, in light of the University's philosophy and purpose of emphasizing public health and prevention activities, a new Graduate School of Public Health was established. In addition, a medium-term vision for the period from 2018 to 2025 has been drawn up under the theme "The Art of Quality," aiming to enhance and develop the University's educational and research activities.

For internal quality assurance, a system is in place where the "Self-Evaluation Committee," a standing committee directly under the President, works with the "Education Management Committee" and the "University Management Council" to support the PDCA cycles of faculties, graduate schools, etc. and promote improvements. However, the positioning, roles, powers, and responsibilities of the various organizations involved in internal quality assurance, as well as the cooperation and division of roles between them, are unclear, while the systems, methods, and processes for verifying the suitability of education and other various activities, and for making improvements and enhancements, are not sufficient. Improvements are required to clarify these issues and further improve the functionality of academic management.

In terms of education, educational activities at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are based on the concept of "People-Centered Care" (PCC), with the undergraduate faculty indicating the structure and sequence of courses by means of curriculum maps and course numbers assigned to each curriculum group. Active learning such as Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and Team-Based Learning (TBL) are actively incorporated into classes to promote independent learning among students. At the graduate level, curricula are designed to appropriately combine research work and coursework in accordance with the characteristics of each course. It may also be acknowledged that the university is actively working to create an environment that supports self-learning, such as by keeping the library open at all hours, enhancing the Learning Commons, and assigning instructors to the "Arts Room" (Nursing Practical Training Room).

Notable achievements include health support for the public through the “St. Luke's Health Navigation Spot: Lukenavi” and “Nurse Clinic,” health lectures in collaboration with companies and local governments, personnel training for maternal and child health in seven countries in Asia and Africa, and other efforts led by the Center for International and Community Partnerships that draw on the University's resources and talent to share the fruits of its educational and research activities with people and nursing facilities at home and abroad.

On the other hand, the curriculum policy of the Graduate School of Nursing is not specific enough to take into account the characteristics of the various courses and does not clearly state the basic approach to implementation. This should be improved.

Going forward, the JUAA hopes that the University will resolve its issues through internal quality assurance efforts, develop many distinctive initiatives that reflect the University's philosophy and objectives and the demands of society, and make further progress through tireless efforts and reforms.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- “St. Luke's Health Navi Spot: Lukenavi” works with citizen volunteers to provide health counseling, health checkups, and other health information services. In addition, it is commendable that the university nursing faculty members act as “proprietors” of the “Nurse Clinic” for people from a diverse range of backgrounds living in the community, partnering with citizen volunteers and non-university professionals to address patient concerns that cannot be addressed in the hospital, while also applying the knowledge gained through these efforts to education and research. In addition, the University has delivered positive outcomes in the regions of Asia and Africa, such as developing local trainees, nurses, and midwives in maternal and child health care, and using these research centers as field sites for international students and Japanese students in the doctoral program, leading to the creation of new research topics. It is commendable that the University is giving back to the international community and providing opportunities for practical education in People-Centered Care to its students in this way.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the University has established a Self-Evaluation Committee as a

university-wide organization for internal quality assurance and states that it has established a policy in the committee's regulations, it lacks clarity as a policy for internal quality assurance and does not provide for specific procedures. In addition, the committee mainly responds to external evaluations and accreditation evaluations, and its position, role, powers, and responsibilities as an internal quality assurance promotion body, as well as the division of roles and cooperation with other organizations such as the University Management Council and Academic Management Council are unclear. As such, it is difficult to say that the internal quality assurance system has been sufficiently developed. In the future, in addition to policies and procedures for internal quality assurance, the powers and roles associated with the system should be clarified, and improvements should be made to make the internal quality assurance system function at a higher level, with the Self-Evaluation Committee playing a central role.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Master's and Doctoral Programs of the Graduate School of Nursing Science and the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Public Health do not sufficiently indicate their basic approach to curriculum design and implementation. This should be improved accordingly.

University Management and Finance

- While the ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund has maintained a certain level, it is on a declining trend, and the operational income and expenditure balance ratio for the university division and the corporation as a whole has remained negative. Despite the worsening financial situation, no financial plan has been developed. Further efforts are required to establish the financial base necessary to carry out educational and research activities by developing a medium- to long-term financial plan with clear, specific numerical targets and steadily implementing measures to implement the plan.