

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

Sonoda Women's University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Hyogo, 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 Sonoda Women's University

Overview

Sonoda Women's University (hereafter, the University) has a founding spirit of "giving in one's own way and devotion" and a mission of "cultivating human beings who can support each other." Founded in 1938 with the purpose of promoting women's education, Sonoda Women's High School was established in Sonoda-mura, Kawabe-gun, Hyogo Prefecture (now a part of Amagasaki-shi). It became the foundation upon which Sonoda Women's College was established in 1963, and Sonoda Women's University (with the Faculty of Literature) in 1966. Currently the University houses two faculties—the Faculty of Human Health Sciences and the Faculty of Human Education.

Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) conducted a review of the University for accreditation in 2007, suspended its decision, and reviewed the University again in 2010, resulting in its accreditation. During the present year, JUAA reaffirmed the second accreditation. After the previous accreditation review, the University has constantly undertaken multiple initiatives to realize the idea of "walking together with local communities," building on its founding spirit, which is the fruit of faculty and staff members making efforts together. In particular, the University has collaborated with local communities by taking various initiatives such as offering a "Senior Citizen's Special Course" and running a "Town's Health Facility." The practical education initiatives like "Town's Health Facility" have combined local residents' activities and student practicums that mutually inform the other's needs and efforts.

However, the University still has issues to address in the areas of students enrollment, which JUAA pointed out in the previous accreditation review and its following rereview. JUAA hopes that the University will make efforts to manage enrollment numbers appropriately.

Notable Strength

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to deepen its relationships with local communities. For example, the University has established its dedicated division to promote local collaboration, which has cooperated with the other division in the University to make a unified effort to develop social cooperation and contribution. In particular, the University has enriched the educational opportunities for adults year by year to cultivate persons of talent who can make local contributions, including the "Senior Citizen's Special Course" offered at the Center for Adult Education. This is a piece of evidence to show that the University has made efforts to cooperate with local communities for years. In recent years, the University has actively undertaken initiatives to develop local cooperation activities, such as the "Town's Consultation Office," which connects students with local people and information and the "Town's Health Facility," in which local residents can consult about health issues closely related to the community. These are students' participatory activities in the area of social cooperation and embody the University's wide-ranging efforts to promote social cooperation and contribution as the "University that Walks Together with its Local Communities."

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The maximum number of credits for which fourth year students can register in a year has not been set in the Department of Wellness in the Faculty of Human Health or in the Department of Children's Education in the Faculty of Human Education. This should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.86 at the Faculty of Human Education. This situation should be improved. In addition, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.85 at the Faculty of Human Education, while the ratio is high at 1.20 at the Department of Human Nursing in the Faculty of Human Health. This situation should be improved.
- In the Faculty of Human Education, the ratio of enrolled transfer students to the transfer student cap is low at 0.30. This situation should be improved.