

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

Taisho University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2013	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Taisho University

Notable Strengths

Education and research organization

- It is commendable that the Buddhist Research Institute is appropriately affiliated with Taisho University (hereafter, the University) to achieve the University's mission and purpose. Full time faculty members have been assigned to the Buddhist Research Institute, which fosters Buddhist study scholars by accepting those who have finished a doctoral program as limited-term researchers. Many study groups consisting of researchers from various disciplines have been organized at the Institute, and they aim to develop a multidisciplinary study of Buddhism. In addition, the Institute has been actively involved in academic exchange with research institutions overseas. It has also held lectures by full-time faculty in their areas of specialization and special lectures by invited scholars from domestic and overseas institutions.

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that the University has been actively involved in promoting social cooperation by providing opportunities for students to participate in various social activities. Since 2011, the University has held the Odai Soul Festival, which is based on the University's own specialty, the Buddhist tradition. Students, citizens' groups for local development, and local shopowners work collaboratively on the event. Those students who participate in the Odai Soul Festival, the "Study Tour and Volunteer Activities in the Disaster Area in Minami Sanriku," or the "Sugamo Flower Road Project" are required to attend pre- and post-learning sessions that are counted as common undergraduate credits. In addition, the University has set up the Odai Project Center to centralize information about local volunteer activities. The center helps to reinforce the collaboration between the University and the local community, and as a result increasing numbers of students want to participate in social contribution activities. The center is highly valued in the opinion poll of local residents.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- Faculties and graduate schools do not widely publicize their policies for designing and implementing their curriculum in their official publications or the University's web page. This situation should be improved.
- In the policies for designing and implementing their curriculums, the doctoral programs in the Graduate School of Buddhist Studies and the Graduate School of Human Studies do not include basic philosophies on the organization of the curriculum, and their policies do not clearly state the relationship of the curriculum to their degree-granting policies.
- The Master's programs and doctoral programs in the graduate schools do not clearly state the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations. These criteria should be clarified in the student handbooks and made accessible to

students.

Enrollment

- The average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap has been high at 1.21 in the Department of Clinical Psychology in the Faculty of Human Studies. This situation should be improved.
- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.67 in the Department of History in the Faculty of Literature. This situation should be improved.
- In the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Literature, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.31. This situation should be improved.

Administration and finance

- In 2009, the “Midterm Master Plan” was formulated for the school corporation, and a comprehensive campus improvement plan was determined. However, in terms of finances, the “sufficiency rate of financial capital against the amount of reserve” has gone down to less than half in five years. Since financial objectives are not stated in the Master Plan, the University should formulate mid- and longterm financial plans and set attainment targets.

Area of Serious Concern

Internal quality assurance

- While the “Taisho University Regulations on Self-Study and Evaluation” state that the “Self-Study Committee” conducts self-studies and evaluations and prepares the “Taisho University White Paper” to publish its results, the University does not conduct self-studies and evaluations in the manner stated. Also, the University launched the “TSR Management Research Institution” as a responsible actor for internal quality assurance, but it has not established regulations for this institution and the “Taisho University Regulation on Self-Study and Evaluation” have not changed or been eliminated. The University must revise its regulations, and make the evaluation system functional so that it follows the regulations.