

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

Tama Art University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Tama Art University

Overview

Tama Art University sets forth the educational philosophy of “Freedom and Will” and defines its purpose as “teaching and researching advanced academic skills in all aspects of art and design; cultivating individuals who can engage with the international community with a broad range of knowledge; and training superior artists, designers, educators, and researchers who can contribute to a contemporary society.” Based on this purpose, the University has formulated the Medium- to Long-term Plan for the five-year period from AY2020 to foster globally competitive human resources capable of actively shaping the future rooted in art in an increasingly diverse and complex society. The plan lays out nine basic medium- to long-term plans, including “educational reform through reorganization aimed at integrating specialization and comprehensiveness” and “communication and dissemination of art university education and research content to society.” The University engages in educational and research activities based on this plan with specific goals and timeframes.

In AY2021, the University established the Internal Quality Assurance Regulations and positioned the Kyoiku Jujitsu Kento Committee as an organization promoting internal quality assurance. Subcommittees, working groups (WG) and project teams (PT), formed under the committee, are tasked with operating the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle in coordination with the faculty and administrative organizations. However, the departments, subcommittees, and other bodies frequently undertake improvement efforts at their own discretion. This situation indicates that improvement and enhancement measures are not fully supported by the Kyoiku Jujitsu Kento Committee. In addition, there are issues with the University’s internal quality assurance system regarding data management for institutional research (IR) and other aspects. Efforts should be made to ensure that the committee fulfills its role as an organization promoting the effective operation of the internal quality assurance system.

As for the University’s education, the General Education Center was restructured into the Center for Liberal Arts and Sciences in AY2022 to implement “educational reform through reorganization aimed at integrating specialization and comprehensiveness” as stated in the Medium- to Long-term Plan. The University is

working on the management of general education subjects for the faculty, with more activities and outcomes expected. The faculty, departments, graduate school programs, and majors have established diploma policies and created the evaluation criteria based on the policies to evaluate the outcomes of graduation or course completion projects and research. Student learning outcomes are monitored and evaluated by faculty members using these criteria in critique sessions where faculty and students exchange views on the outcomes of projects and research.

The University has undertaken several outstanding initiatives. In response to the coronavirus outbreak in AY2020, the Promotion Committee for New Normal (PNN Committee) was organized to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff as well as student learning opportunities during the pandemic. It is commendable that the PNN Committee has helped realize the early resumption of in-person lessons and the reopening of on-campus facilities under the guidance of doctors and other experts to continue art education that places importance on practical skills. In addition, the University takes advantage of its distinctive features to conduct educational and research activities, and has established affiliated progressive institutions to support art education, such as the Art Archives Center, which stores specialized materials, and the CMTEL materials research facility. The University also offers a variety of lifelong learning programs and has instituted the Tama Art University Bureau (TUB) and Akibatamabi 21 as art facilities for students and graduates to exhibit their works and present their research. It is highly commendable that the University is actively disseminating its educational and research outcomes to society.

However, there are several more issues the University needs to address, in addition to the above issues pertaining to internal quality assurance. The doctoral program in the Graduate School of Art and Design has not formulated and published the screening criteria for dissertations, and this situation must be corrected. The faculty has failed to take sufficient steps to ensure credit validity, and inadequacies were found in its student quota management. The graduate school has not conducted its own faculty development (FD) activities related to graduate school education. These issues should be addressed.

In the coming years, the University should improve and effectively operate its internal quality assurance system to deal with these issues. The University is expected to make further progress by organizing and utilizing on-campus data to examine the appropriateness of its initiatives, enhancing its distinctive activities that include lifelong learning programs and “Triennale” art festivals, and exploring ways to organically manage its organizations.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Environment

- The PNN Committee consisting of faculty and staff specializing in art as well as nurses and school physicians was organized in AY2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The committee has helped realize the early reopening of in-person lessons and on-campus facilities with anti-infection measures put in place following on-site inspections conducted by school physicians and other healthcare professionals with expertise in infectious diseases. With practical skills education in an in-person setting considered important for art and design universities, the University's swift and appropriate response is commendable not only as an effective anti-coronavirus measure, but also as a positive approach to adjusting to a "new normal" after the pandemic.
- The Art Archives Center was established in AY2018 as the culmination of years of collecting and accumulating art resources. In addition to storing, studying, and publicly exhibiting collection materials, the center promotes creative activities, with synergistic effects expected by combining the art material archives with the creative works and research by students, faculty, and staff. The CMTEL materials research facility not only conducts think-tank activities focused on materials, but also works with international research institutes to study resource materials and trends. It is commendable that the University utilizes its distinctive features and resources to operate its art facilities as leading-edge research hubs.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Lifelong Learning Center has introduced "Takuhaibin Asobi Jutsu," a new course for elementary school students using home delivery and the internet, in response to the feedback. The course attracts participants from both inside and outside the Kanto region, where the University's campuses are located. In addition, The TUB, as a hub for promoting design and art in collaboration with businesses and other organizations, offers Tama Design University as a virtual course on the cutting-edge design field and social themes. The Akibatamabi 21 art space provides young artists with opportunities to exhibit their works to the public. It is commendable that the University constantly disseminates the appeal

of art and design widely to society.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Kyoiku Jujitsu Kento Committee, positioned as an organization promoting internal quality assurance, undertakes improvement and enhancement efforts by organizing subcommittees, WGs, and PTs in response to various issues. However, the departments, subcommittees, and other bodies frequently address particular concerns at their own discretion. This situation indicates that improvement and enhancement measures are not fully supported by the committee. This issue should be addressed by reviewing the committee's role in promoting internal quality assurance, while incorporating the results of external evaluations to operate the internal quality assurance system more effectively to assure and enhance the quality of education.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The undergraduate program has not specified the maximum number of credits students can register for in a year, but recommends taking up to 50 credits, with measures and guidance provided to prevent credit overload. However, many students take more than 50 credits in certain school years and some register for an excessive number of credits. The University has specified advancement requirements and students' study time outside of class hours, but these measures are inadequate for ensuring credit validity. This issue should be addressed in light of the purpose of the credit system.

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.23 in the Department of Art Studies and 1.20 in the Department of Information Design. These ratios should be lowered with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The graduate school's own FD activities for educational improvements have not been implemented. This issue should be addressed.

Recommendation

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The doctoral program in the Graduate School of Art and Design has not formulated and published the screening criteria for dissertations. This situation must be corrected.