University Accreditation Results

(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Tsuda University

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited （Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025）	

**Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
for Results for Tsuda University**

Overview

Originally established as the Women's Institute for English Studies in 1900, Tsuda University (hereafter, the University) opened as Tsuda College with just one undergraduate English Literature program in 1948. Through subsequent expansion and reorganization, the University now has two undergraduate schools (College of Liberal Arts and College of Policy Studies, with the latter created in 2017) and three graduate programs (English and Cultural Studies, International and Cultural Studies, and Mathematics and Computer Science). Education and research activities are conducted on two campuses in Tokyo, one in the City of Kodaira and the other in Sendagaya, Shibuya Ward.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the University has worked to address areas requiring improvement under the leadership of the University-wide Self-Assessment Committee, while also gauging the level of recognition of the principles upheld by the University-wide Strategic Planning Committee across departments and units, and whether education, research, and student support are carried out in line with those principles. In addition, the Vision and Mission Committee, established in 2016, adopted and published "Tsuda Vision 2030" in 2017.

The University has a number of noteworthy features that include the College of Liberal Arts' "Sogo" course, a long-running public extension course organized entirely by students from selecting topics to inviting speakers. Also, the Writing Center and other units provide thorough student support by encouraging independent student learning. Promising initiatives include the Off-Campus Learning Center established in 2016 as part of the support system to enhance learning activities outside the classroom, and the introduction of the quarter system with a gap year program and concurrent curriculum revision.

The University is not without weaknesses, however, such as its failure to establish a curriculum design and implementation policy for each graduate program. Going forward, the University is expected to continue making improvements based on the results of its self-study audits performed in accordance with the Internal Quality Assurance Policy formulated in 2017 so as to fully achieve its goals.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The College of Liberal Arts common courses offer a comprehensive discipline designed to refine a broad liberal arts knowledge base and intelligence. The "Sogo" course, for example, provides students with the experience to build independence and develop communication and interpersonal skills by having them work as volunteer staff entirely responsible for setting the year's theme, selecting and inviting speakers, and managing the class itself. And the Women's Studies course invites speakers from a range of fields to ensure the topics covered meet diverse student interests. By providing different role models, the course exposes students to the knowledge and experience of successful women working in various fields and helps them design their careers. These long-running extension courses require students to document and present their learning, which helps to broaden student perspectives and career planning. These courses are fully consistent with the University's mission and are commendable.

Student Support

- The Writing Center aims not only to improve writing skills but also to develop leadership skills. In one-on-one sessions, instead of simply correcting students' work, the Center's tutors (the Writing Center staff) ask probing questions to make students think deeply on their own, and work with them to explore ways to present cogent arguments. Tutors help students develop the ability to think and reflect on themselves, along with writing skills, by discussing weaknesses and improvement ideas. With an ever-increasing number of students visiting for guidance, the Center is proving to be an effective resource and is commended for embodying the University's mission of "nurturing independent women with all-round abilities."

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The Graduate Programs in English and Cultural Studies, Mathematics and Computer Science, and International and Cultural Studies are advised to establish qualification

criteria for selecting graduate school teaching staff.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- English and Cultural Studies of the Graduate Program in English and Cultural Studies, Computer Science of the Graduate Program in Mathematics and Computer Science, and International and Cultural Studies of the Graduate Program in International and Cultural Studies have the same curriculum design and implementation policy at the master's and doctoral levels and are advised to establish a separate policy for each level.

- The Graduate Programs in English and Cultural Studies, Mathematics and Computer Science, and International and Cultural Studies have not established grading methods for the undergraduate specialized subjects of each program, the credits for which are applicable to a degree, and are advised to do so to ensure the quality of education they provide.

Enrollment

- The Graduate Programs in English and Cultural Studies have the same student admissions policy at the master's and doctoral levels and are advised to establish a separate policy for each level.

- The average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years is high at 1.27 in the Department of Computer Science, College of Liberal Arts, and should be lowered.

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.20 in the Graduate Program of International and Cultural Studies and should be improved.