

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

Toin University of Yokohama



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2018	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2026)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Toin University of Yokohama

Overview

Toin University of Yokohama (hereafter, the University) sets forth the mission and purpose for its operations, including education, research, and international exchange activities, in the University Charter based on Toin Gakuen Group's five founding philosophy statements. To realize its mission and purpose, the University formulated in 2017 a medium- and long-term plan that places practical learning at the center of the University's education and strives to improve its education and research activities.

To promote practical education, the University offers, for example, three courses in the Faculty of Law, including a police and fire fighter course, as well as programs to train clinical laboratory technicians and clinical engineers in the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering. Subjects are offered in accordance with the degree award policy and the curriculum design and implementation policy, and are coded to promote sequential learning. Furthermore, the University strives to enhance student learning by offering small class lessons designed to support more effective teaching and by strengthening cooperation between faculties.

The Toin University of Yokohama Regional Collaboration and Lifelong Learning Center implements social contribution activities that take advantage of the University's strengths. Such activities include lifelong learning courses, Science Workshops for Children, and service learning exercises. The Center is highly commended for promoting local community contribution and collaboration activities and for providing lifelong learning opportunities to the public.

There are a number of issues the University needs to address, however. In the area of education, some faculties and graduate schools have inadequate curriculum design and implementation policies; some faculties do not implement sufficient interventions to ensure that course workloads align with the credit hour definition; and some graduate schools do not have clear evaluation criteria for thesis examination and research projects on specific topics, and/or research supervision plans clearly outlining supervision methods and schedules. The University needs to take steps to ensure that learning outcomes are measured and assessed in line with the degree award policy. It also needs to improve enrollment management, as undergraduate programs tend to exceed the capacity while the master's and doctoral degree programs are under capacity. The University does not have a clear hiring policy for graduate school faculty members nor

do the graduate schools have their own faculty development programs. These issues should be addressed to improve the quality of graduate-level education. Although the undergraduate programs are at capacity as mentioned above, the University is not financially secure as a corporation. While not an extremely serious problem at present, the University is expected to set numerical targets and work diligently toward achieving them as the need to build a solid financial foundation is a pressing concern.

As part of the efforts to assure the quality of education, research, and other activities conducted within the institution, the University established an internal quality assurance (IQA) system in 2017 led by the President's Office and the University Self-Study Committee. However, the University has not established an institution-wide IQA policy or kept records of activities conducted by the bodies responsible for IQA promotion, namely the President's Office and the University Self-Study Committee. While individual departments routinely review their practices, and improvements are initiated by such university-wide organizations as the Planning and Deliberation Group, the University Steering Meeting, and the Board of Councilors, the President's Office and the Self-Study Committee are not taking a leadership role in guiding the faculties and graduate schools in making improvements based on self-study results. The University is therefore advised to ensure that its IQA system is functioning effectively and consistently throughout the institution.

Going forward it is important for the University to address the issues identified and work on quality assurance for further development of the institution.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Toin University of Yokohama Regional Coordination and Lifelong Learning Center offers practical learning experience to students through the service learning exercise program, carried out in cooperation with Yokohama municipality and other government bodies. It also provides a range of open lectures (e.g., Science workshop for children) and lifelong learning courses mainly targeting local elementary and middle school students and senior citizens. These learning opportunities made possible through the University's resources are helping bring people together to form a new community in the area. The Center's activities are commendable for promoting engagement and collaboration with the local community in accordance with its social cooperation and contribution policy and for providing lifelong learning opportunities

to the public.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The responsibility and authority allocated to the organizations charged with promoting IQA, namely the President's Office, the University Self-Study Committee, and the Self-Study Committees of the faculties and graduate schools, are not clearly defined. While the President's Office and the University Self-Study Committee are working on IQA, their failure to keep records of activities prevents JUAA from determining whether they are effectively guiding the faculties and graduate schools in making improvements based on self-study results. The University needs to adopt a clear IQA policy and ensure the IQA system is functioning effectively in line with its policy.

Educational Program and Outcome

- The curriculum design and implementation policy of the Faculty of Law should clearly state the basic principles of curriculum design and implementation. The Graduate School of Law has established a blanket curriculum design and implementation policy that applies to both the Master Degree in Law and the Doctor Degree in Law. In addition, the Master Degree in Law has its own exclusive curriculum design and implementation policy, but the Doctor Degree in Law does not. The Graduate School of Law is advised to establish a curriculum design and implementation policy for the Doctor Degree in Law in the same manner as it does for the Master Degree in Law.
- To ensure that course workloads align with the credit hour definition, the University sets a cap on the number of credits for which a student can register in a year. Faculties, however, make exceptions for some subjects (e.g., the teaching profession and project research subjects) and allow their students to register beyond the credit cap. Also, the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering imposes no such limit for students who earned 20 or more credits, with a GPA of 2.5 or higher in the previous semester, even though in some academic years over half the students in a single graduating class fulfill this requirement. In the current state, the credit cap policy is not working effectively.

Furthermore, the Faculty of Law sets no credit cap for third-year transfer students. Although the University advises students on the number of required before- and after-class study hours in the syllabus and offers individual instructions to transfer students, these steps are not sufficient to ensure that students complete the hours of study required to earn credits. This issue should be improved in light of the purpose of the credit system.

- The Master Degree in Program Sport Science of the Graduate School of Sport Sciences needs to provide clear evaluation criteria for thesis examination and research projects on specific topics, and the Master Degree in Law of the Graduate School of Law needs to provide clear evaluation criteria for research projects on specific topics.
- In the Master Degree in Program Sport Science of the Graduate School of Sport Sciences and the Master and Doctor Degrees in Law of the Graduate School of Law, learning outcomes are determined through thesis evaluation but not in accordance with the degree award policy. These graduate schools need to adopt appropriate practices in measuring and assessing student learning outcomes.

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.40 in the Master Degree in Law of the Graduate School of Law and the Master Degree in Program Sport Science of the Graduate School of Sport Sciences, and 0.17 in the Doctor Degree in Law of the Graduate School of Law. Graduate school enrollment should be managed more effectively.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The graduate schools of Law and Engineering need to adopt a clearly defined hiring criteria for graduate school faculty members.
- The graduate schools need to implement their own FD program in an appropriate manner.

Recommendations

Educational Program and Outcome

- The Master and Doctor degrees in Engineering of the Graduate School of Engineering do not provide a research supervision plan that clearly outlines research supervision methods and schedules. The graduate school needs to ensure this information is made available to students in advance.

Student Enrollment

- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are high at 1.24 in the Faculty of Culture and Sport Policy, 1.26 in the Department of Sport Education, 1.23 in the Department of Sport Technology, and 1.25 in the Department of Culture and Sport Policy (the three departments belong to the Faculty of Culture and Sport Policy). The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are also high at 1.21 in the Faculty of Culture and Sport Policy, 1.23 in the Department of Sport Education, and 1.22 in the Department of Culture and Sport Policy (the two departments belong to the Faculty of Culture and Sport Policy). The University must improve enrollment management and address these ratios.

University Management and Finance

- The University has a weak financial foundation, with the ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund being significantly low and declining, and the ratio of deficit spending carried over to the following financial year (翌年度繰越支出超過額) to imputed income, or the rate of the carried over expenditures for next year to the imputed income, remaining high. The University must formulate a medium- and long-term financial plan with clear numerical targets as soon as possible and take steps towards improving its financial health.