

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

Tokyo University of Agriculture

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2012	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2020)	
Related Links	
Tokyo University of Agriculture: http://www.nodai.ac.jp/english/	
Full Text of the Accreditation Results (in Japanese): http://www.juaa.or.jp/accreditation/university/result_2012.html	
Accreditation Standards, Process and other related information (in English): http://www.juaa.or.jp/en/accreditation/university.html	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Tokyo University of Agriculture

Notable Strengths

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that the Tokyo University of Agriculture has made various efforts to re-vitalize local agriculture. For example, the purpose of the university's Comprehensive Practical Agriculture Study Group is to rediscover the practical and general features and essence of agriculture. The group includes not only scholars but also corporate employees, farmers, consumers, and journalists. It holds annual symposiums with themes based on problems that farmers and agricultural villages face. In addition, the university actively cooperates and collaborates with twenty local governments nation-wide such as Kosuge Village in Yamanashi Prefecture, Nagawa-cho in Nagano Prefecture, and Fujinomiya City in Shizuoka Prefecture.
- It is commendable that the university has made an effort to promote international exchange and unique educational activities. In particular, the annual International Student Summit (ISS) for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment in the New 21st Century has been held since 2001. It has provided a forum for students from the university and international students from partner institutions overseas to make presentations about and discuss topics on food, agriculture, the environment, health, and energy. There have been more than 275 presentations at this summit with a total of 40,000 participants.

Suggestions for improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- In each Faculty, the policies for granting degrees and for curriculum design and implementation have not been stipulated. These should be set in accordance with the mission and purposes of the university and made public. Moreover, in each Graduate School, learning outcomes at the time of program completion have not been clarified. Nor have the policies for designing and implementing the curriculum. These should be improved.
- In the doctoral programs of eight Departments (i.e., the Departments of Agricultural Science, Animal Science, Bioscience, Fermentation Science and Technology, Food and Nutritional Science, Agricultural Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and International Agricultural Development) in the Graduate School of Agriculture, research guidance is taking place. However, research related classes are not offered nor have curricula for such classes been organized. This should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having course-based doctoral programs.
- After the 2010 curricular reform, all Faculties allow students enrolled after 2010 to register for a maximum of 50 credits per year, which is high. In addition, for fourth-year and transfer students, there is no limit. This should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- Although the syllabus has a standardized format for the entire university, the specificities of content description vary. Some courses leave out details in the "objective of the course and assignments" and in "grading criteria (e.g., weight of reports, quizzes, midterm- and final-exams, and assignments)," concrete details are

lacking. This should be improved.

- The ways in which the results of the Student Course Evaluation questionnaire are used are left to the discretion of each faculty member. This should be improved by organizational efforts for improvement of educational content and methods. In addition, in the Graduate School of Agricultural Studies, organizational faculty development (FD) efforts have not taken place, which should be improved.
- In all the Graduate Schools, the criteria for examining degree-seeking dissertations have not been clearly stipulated. These should be clarified specifically for students and clearly indicated in the Student Handbook (and other handbooks).

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is high at 1.23 in the Faculty of Agriculture as a whole. The average ratio is high at 1.23 in the Department of Agriculture, 1.22 in the Department of Animal Science, and 1.24 in the Department of Human and Animal-Plant Relationships in the same Faculty. The average ratio is also high in the Faculty of Applied Bioscience, with 1.21 in the Department of Bioscience, 1.22 in the Department of Applied Biology and Chemistry, and 1.24 in the Department of Fermentation Science. The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.22 in the Faculty of Agriculture as a whole, and it is high at 1.22 in the Department of Agriculture and 1.24 in the Department of Human and Animal-Plant Relationships in the same Faculty. The ratio is also high in the Faculty of Applied Bioscience, with at 1.22 in the Department of Bioscience, at 1.22 in the Department of Applied Biology and Chemistry, and 1.24 in the Department of Fermentation Science. These numbers should be improved.
- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is high at 1.33 in the Department of Bioproduction and Environment Engineering in the Faculty of Regional Environment Science, and 1.35 in the Department of Food Environment Economics in the Faculty of International Agriculture and Food Studies. In the Faculty of Bioindustry, the ratio is high at 1.63 in the Department of Food and Cosmetic Science and 1.80 in the Department of Business Science and Regional Development. In contrast, the ratio is low at 0.45 in the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture. These numbers should be improved.
- In the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Bioindustry, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.25. This should be improved.

Administration and finance

- The Tokyo University of Agriculture Faculty Meeting Regulations stipulates that the kinds of items that the Joint Faculty Meeting can deliberate will separately be determined later. However, only agenda items for deliberation were tentatively decided upon at the 1997 Faculty of Agriculture Faculty Meeting, and the composition of faculty members and agendas for deliberation at the Joint Faculty Meeting have not been formally stipulated. This is a problem. Important matters such as graduation decision of students have been made without clearly defined regulations for more than ten years. This should be improved.

Internal quality assurance

- The university lacks a system of self-study and evaluation, which is based on objective evidence and which leads to improvement. The university should create a system in which results of the University Self-study and Evaluation Committee and the University Council are integrated with a clarification of the role of the Committee, the Council, and other committees to implement improvement measures. The university should make sure that such a system of internal quality assurance can function substantively and effectively.

Areas of Serious Concern

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- Although the Special Activity Program is a formal course under the university regulations, a syllabus does not exist. Furthermore, the educational methods by which this course is implemented—by lecture, seminar, experiment, practical training, or a combination of these—have not been specified. There is also a serious problem in that no faculty is in charge of this course. This should be improved.

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.23 and 1.23 respectively in the Faculty of Regional Environment Science. In the same Faculty, these ratios are also high at 1.24 and 1.25 in the Department of Forest Science, 1.22 and 1.24 in the Department of Bioproduction and Environment Engineering, and 1.23 and 1.22 in the Department of Landscape Architecture Science. They are also high in the Faculty of International Agriculture and Food Studies at 1.24 and 1.24 respectively, with 1.25 and 1.24 in the Department of International Agricultural Development, 1.23 and 1.26 in the Department of Food Environment Economics, and 1.24 and 1.22 in the Department of International Biobusiness Studies in the same Faculty. Furthermore, in the Faculty of Bioindustry, the ratios are also high at 1.29 and 1.27 in the Department of Bioproduction, and 1.24 and 1.24 in the Department of Aquatic Bioscience, and 1.22 and 1.22 in the Department of Food and Cosmetic Science. In contrast, in the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.88 in the Department of Business Science and Regional Development in the Faculty of Bioindustry. These numbers should be improved. In the previous accreditation review, the JUAA suggested that the university's enrollment should be managed appropriately, as it was a serious concern. The JUAA indeed requested a report on improvement; however, the enrollment management has not led to sufficient improvement. During the current period of evaluation and accreditation, the JUAA again requested a report on this matter, but found that enrollment has not been appropriately managed. The enrollment management must be improved at the earliest opportunity.