

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

Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts

Overview

Based on the philosophy of the Doshisha founder that the education of women is imperative to the development of society, Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts (DWCLA) has worked to shape women who contribute to building a richer world. DWCLA is a comprehensive women's college with 11 departments in six faculties, one advanced course, and eight majors in five graduate schools at present. It pursues educational and research activities toward achieving its three educational philosophies of Christianity, internationalism, and liberal arts. In 2016, a future vision called "Vision 150" was set up as a new mid- to long-term plan to mark the 150th anniversary in 2026 of the University's founding. This vision defines four long-term goals with the concept of nurturing women who can reform the 21st century from a woman's perspective. The first five years of the plan period are set as the first phase for which medium-term targets are set, and action plans for the various groups have been created and are currently being carried out according to plan.

The basic concept for the promotion of internal quality assurance and university-wide policy is laid out as the Policy on Internal Quality Assurance in the Policies on Various Activities of DWCLA created in July 2019, and procedures related to internal quality assurance are stipulated in the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Regulations of DWCLA. In accordance with these regulations, the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee has been established as the organization promoting internal quality assurance university-wide. It verifies the results of inspections and accreditations of various organizations, creates university-wide Check and Review Reports or Self-Study Annual Reports, and also makes proposals to the President regarding measures for improvements and enhancements. It has also created a system for the President to give instructions to various organizations regarding improvements and enhancements. Management of the PDCA cycle related to internal quality assurance led by the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee is outlined in diagram form with a summary diagram of the internal quality assurance system of DWCLA. However, although the role of the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee is stipulated in the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Regulations of DWCLA, substantive discussions regarding checks and reviews take place mainly in the Operations Group

for Internal Quality Assurance Promotion, and division of roles being unclear between it and the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee, in which said discussions should actually be engaged, requires improvements to be made. Moving forward, the JUAA hopes the system for internal quality assurance will function more substantially with appropriate verification, which leads to improvements and enhancements in education and research for each undergraduate and graduate division.

All undergraduate and graduate divisions are appropriately carrying out education in accordance with the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy). Each undergraduate and graduate division has a curriculum overview diagram available, and a numbering system is being implemented to categorize class subjects based on content and level. From AY2019, a class reflection sheet has been implemented with which faculty members in charge of classes self-evaluate the level of achievement for goals to be attained that are indicated in the degree award policy. It serves as basic material to allow them to understand existing issues and address them, and it is apparent that effort is being made toward university-wide education quality assurance.

It can be commended that improvements have been made against recommendations received with the previous university accreditation by the JUAA in AY2019 regarding the issue of balance between research activities and coursework in the curriculum for the Graduate School of Literary Studies, and the low ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the Graduate School of International Social Systems Studies.

It is also commendable that thorough student support is being offered, such as the continued implementation of the conventional big sister system in which upper-class students provide thorough support for younger students, the implementation of remote classes as a measure against the spread of COVID-19 in AY2020 and offering assistance tailored to students in need of support educationally and financially. Further in 2015, the Women's Activation Center was established to provide support and advice so that students and alumni can carry out their roles in society and exert their abilities throughout their lives. Activities are being eagerly carried out with cooperation among organizations both within campus and outside. Additionally, in 2017 in cooperation with the municipality in which the University is situated, the Community-Building Committee of DWCLA was formed as an organization for students to take initiative in working for community-building. Work is being carried

out to build a system for students to be at the center of social cooperation activities, and such proactive initiatives are being carried out in both social cooperation and contribution.

Although such unique initiatives are evident, graduate schools have issues regarding specifying methods for student quota management and evaluating learning outcomes. Correction is also required concerning the method of instruction not clearly indicated in the research supervision plan. Going forward, it is anticipated that the internal quality assurance system will function more substantially and efforts will be made to enhance and ensure the quality of education university-wide for further development of the University.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Women's Activation Center, where programs and other events for the formation of women's careers are held, cooperates with organizations within campus and outside the University. Lecturers are invited from outside the University who are recommended by alumni who have started businesses as well as faculty members. It is an opportunity not only for students to learn about the formation of a career as a leader in the future, but by making the program widely available to residents in the community, it contributes greatly to advancing the role of women in society, etc. With the center as a base, several programs are held by graduate school students as staff members, such as the Childcare Support Program, serving as a place for students themselves to contribute to society through active learning and as an opportunity for them to contemplate career formation. Thus, it can be commended as an initiative that holds true to the will of the founder, who believed in the necessity of education for women.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the role of the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee is stipulated in the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Regulations of DWCLA, the study by the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee is insufficient, and substantive discussions on checks and reviews take place mainly in the Operations Group for Internal Quality Assurance Promotion. Improvement measures suggested by the President are shared at the Standing Committee, which is the decision making body of the University, with the Internal Quality

Assurance Promotion Committee including the President as a member, which is not stated in the regulations. Improvements should be made to clear up discrepancies between the regulations and actual conditions and so that internal quality assurance functions effectively by laying out the division of roles of the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee, the Operations Group for Internal Quality Assurance Promotion, and the Standing Committee.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- Measuring learning outcomes as stipulated in the degree award policy of the Graduate School is to be carried out with an assessment of the thesis, but the thesis examination criteria are not associated with the degree award policy, and as it does not equate to benchmarks of learning outcomes, improvements should be made.
- Although a limit on the number of course registrations for credit in one year has been set and guidance for taking courses is provided for each of the years, there are a certain number of subjects geared toward obtaining qualifications that do not count as part of the limit. In the first year of the Department of Childhood Studies in the Faculty of Contemporary Social Studies, conditions are as such that a considerable number of students are registered for a large number of credits, and improvements should be made for the substantiation of credits.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the Graduate School of Literary Studies is low at 0.39. Therefore, the University should make improvements to ensure proper graduate student quota management.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- Regarding FD activities, efforts to stimulate research activities and social contribution and to enhance faculty member quality are lacking, and improvements should be made.

Recommendation

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- Although there is a schedule presented for thesis preparation in the Master's Program in English and Doctoral Program in English of the Graduate School of

Literary Studies, Master's Program in Japanese Studies and Doctoral Program in Japanese Studies, Master's Program in Information and Culture Studies, Master's Program in International Social Systems Studies, Master's Program in Nursing Science, Master's Program in Life Style Design Studies, and Master's Program in Food Science and Nutrition Studies, there is no indication of research guidance method in the form of a research supervision plan. Thus, improvement should be made by way of deciding on and specifying the information to students in advance.