

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

**Nakamura Gakuen University**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukuoka, 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 Nakamura Gakuen University**

### **Overview**

Nakamura Gakuen University inherits the educational ideals of the founder as its founding spirit and embodies a philosophy that emphasizes the three perspectives of “base for human education” “basis of educational practice,” and “basics of education and research.” The University sets its purpose as “striving to integrate theory and practice, endeavoring for education and research that emphasizes integration of academics and daily life, and fostering talented individuals capable of contributing to the development of society and growth of culture.” The University has created the Eighth Medium-term Comprehensive Plan as its medium-term plan for the period set from AY2021 to AY2023 to achieve its mission and purpose and is making efforts to improve its educational and research activities.

The University has not established a framework for the promotion of internal quality assurance, and policies and procedures are not yet functioning as intended. Although the Self-Study Committee and the FD Center are considering their respective measures regarding the two PDCA cycles based on the University’s business plan and the university standards of the JUAA, the Nakamura Gakuen University (including the Junior College) Advisory Council (hereinafter, “Advisory Council”), the body responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, is not involved in the improvement process of both these entities, and there is no evidence of cooperation among organizations. Before being inspected by the Self-Study Committee, the results of checks and reviews of secretariat organizations regarding student support and social cooperation are in practice being inspected by the Office Management and Planning Council, which is presided over by the General Manager of the corporation. Thus, a body that is different than what is stated in the policy is involved with internal quality assurance. Moving on, the University should clarify the relationship between the Advisory Council and the Self-Study Committee, FD Center, and Office Management and Planning Council and make corrections to ensure that its internal quality assurance functions effectively, led by the Advisory Council.

Regarding education, all undergraduate and graduate divisions have for the most part designed their curricula suitably based on their degree award policies and curriculum design and implementation policies. Nevertheless, the University should

improve issues surrounding measures to substantiate credits in some faculties and measure learning outcomes described in degree award policies of graduate schools.

Also, regarding student enrollment, over enrollment in some faculties is an issue. This should be improved to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.

Outstanding initiatives are evident as well. The Teaching Support Program aimed at new faculty members and practitioner faculty members encourages improving the quality of new faculty members, etc. and provides an opportunity for faculty and staff members managing the program to reflect upon the University. Significant results can be anticipated for the improvement of the faculty organizational framework as a whole. The N Project is one of the University's social cooperation and contribution activities where students' flexible ideas are used to plan activities for local contribution. It is highly commendable that the University supports the autonomous activity of students through this project.

In applying for this round of certified evaluation and accreditation by the JUAA, the University has identified issues on its own using the process of self-study based on the university criteria set forth by the JUAA. For issues identified, the FD Center, which promotes university-wide education reform activities, proposed an education system reform plan in AY2021. Although exploratory initiatives aimed mainly at educational reform are evident, the JUAA hopes that an effective, university-wide internal quality assurance system is established with the Advisory Council at its core. Furthermore, it is anticipated that not only management of target achievement status and resolution of issues is achieved by each of the departments but also a solid base is built so that various unique initiatives by the University as a whole can continue and lead to further development.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Faculty and Faculty Organization*

- The Teaching Support Program which began in 2020 is aimed at new faculty members and practitioner faculty members so that they can learn about the University's mission as well as the roles and duties of faculty members. The program helps them gain basic education knowledge to improve their abilities. This program provides various opportunities for new faculty members and others to improve their own level of classroom instruction and encourages their quality enhancement. It is an opportunity for faculty and staff members running the program to reflect upon the University's mission and classroom instruction, and

it can be commended as an initiative promising significant results for the improvement of the faculty organization as a whole.

#### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- The N Project, which was started in AY2016, is an initiative that calls upon students to submit ideas regarding community contribution, and those who are selected after internal screening receive funding support from the University. Activities planned by students are acclaimed by participants within the community, and the number of activities selected has been increasing since the start of the project. Students plan and also manage the activities, and they go over them and identify issues for improvement, once the activity is completed. Through the N Project, students learn independence and cooperation, and in light of the University's purpose, it is commendable that the University supports students in their autonomous activities.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

#### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- Although the maximum number of credits that students can register for in a single year is set in the Department of Business, Marketing and Distribution in the Faculty of Business, Marketing and Distribution, it does not apply to transfer students. Also, although the maximum number of credits that students can register for in a single year is set in the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education in the Faculty of Education for the first year, there are some courses for which credits do not apply to this limit. Consequently, several students register for credits above the maximum number. Although there are measures to substantiate credits university-wide, they are insufficient. Improvements are required in light of the purpose of having a credit system.
- While learning outcomes in graduate schools are measured using the master's thesis and doctoral dissertation examinations, the relationship between criteria for examining theses and learning outcomes is unclear, and improvement is required.

#### *Student Enrollment*

- In the last five years, the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman

enrollment cap has been as high as 1.27 in the Department of Business, Marketing and Distribution in the Faculty of Business, Marketing and Distribution. This should be improved to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.

## **Recommendation**

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- Although the Self-Study Committee and the FD Center are considering their respective measures regarding the two PDCA cycles based on the University's business plan and the university standards of the JUAA, the Advisory Council, the body responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, is not involved in the improvement process of both these entities, and there is no evidence of cooperation among organizations. The results of checks and reviews of secretariat organizations regarding student support and social cooperation, before being inspected by the Self-Study Committee, are in practice being inspected by the Office Management and Planning Council, which is presided over by the General Manager of the corporation. Thus, a body is involved with internal quality assurance that is different than what is stated in the policy. Moving on, the University should clarify the relationship between the Advisory Council and the Self-Study Committee, FD Center, and Office Management and Planning Council and make corrections to ensure that its internal quality assurance led by the Advisory Council functions effectively throughout the University.