

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

Nishogakusha University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2028)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Nishogakusha University

Overview

Based on its founding spirit, Nishogakusha University's rules establish the mission and purpose of the University as "using Eastern ethos to mold character" and "expanding practical skills, knowledge, and morality while contributing to global culture by nurturing internationally competent people who improve Japanese society". The mid- and long-term plans to achieve the mission and purpose are included in Nishogakusha University's (hereafter the "Corporation") successive long-term plans, the N' 2020 Plan and the N' 2030 Plan.

The University is working to enrich the system that previously promoted checks, reviews, and faculty development (hereafter "FD") for education and research activities, etc. in requesting the current University Accreditation and has established the University Management Committee as the main organization for promoting internal quality assurance as well as a Checks and Review Committee and Case Investigation Committee within each division as the entity that conducts checks and reviews. The University Management Committee receives reports from the Checks and Review Committees on the results of checks and reviews and is positioned as the organization that provides direction for improvements and quality assurance in education and research services. This structure is shared with all faculty members via Faculty Council meetings and the University groupware. Deans and Directors of Research summarize the results of checks and reviews, the division's Checks and Review Committee examines the summary, and the results are reported to the University Management Committee through the Checks and Review Committee. This cycle of checks and reviews followed by improvements and refinements was established in 2019 and while it has been defined as a system, how directions from the University Management Committee aimed at improvement are implemented and whether the system will function effectively depends largely on future efforts. Additional work moving forward is expected to ensure an effective University-wide internal quality assurance system centered on an organization that promotes internal quality assurance.

For curricula and learning outcomes, the University specifies degree award policies (diploma policies) that adhere to the University's mission and purpose at the beginning of course guidelines, specifies degree award policies in undergraduate divisions aimed at improving undergraduate education and degree award policies in

graduate divisions geared towards improving graduate education and research, and then systematically explains each one. It also creates a table showing the relationship between educational courses and degree award policies, shows where courses students intend to take are listed in degree award policies, and arranges curricula systematically while considering the academic system and learning sequence in specialized fields. In addition to providing personalized guidance in creating a thesis as the culmination of learning in a division and conducting interviews after students have submitted their graduation thesis as initiatives to measure the student learning outcomes listed in degree award policies, the University also seems to have proactively considered initiatives that introduce common rubrics in creating, defending, and presenting theses. In graduate divisions, students in the first years of doctoral programs (master's programs) present interim reports while creating their master's thesis and undergo a final interview after submitting their thesis. In the last years of doctoral programs, research results are verified via conference presentations, etc. as a requisite for submitting a doctoral thesis and advisors assess and review whether each point in the degree award policy has been satisfied by conducting final interviews, etc. after students submit their doctoral thesis. In this way, the graduate schools can expect to see results in the future.

To enhance the quality of University management in faculty and staff members and create a suitable University management structure as a foundation for governance by the President, the University institutionalized a staff development (hereafter "SD") system for all staff members, conducted joint faculty and staff training sessions centered on an SD Committee, and has enacted continuous initiatives to solidify knowledge related to University Management shared among faculty and staff, all of which are highly valued as they are expected to promote future educational collaborations.

However, there are several issues that should be addressed. Some graduate schools do not indicate the learning outcomes - including knowledge, skills, and abilities - that students will need to attain for a degree in their degree award policies, some undergraduate divisions and departments do not present their basic ideas on curriculum implementation, and some graduate schools have not established their curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy) for each degree that will be awarded. The University does not conduct any graduate school-specific FD activities for educational improvement, and this must be improved.

Moving forward, the University should plan to firmly establish and develop internal quality assurance while addressing the improvements listed above. In this way, it can expect significant advancements in the future by further developing characteristic initiatives as a University.

Notable Strengths

University Management and Finance

- To enhance the quality of University management in faculty and staff members and create a suitable University management structure as a foundation for governance by the President, the University institutionalized an SD system for all staff members in the “Nishogakusha University Staff Development Regulations,” conducted joint faculty and staff training sessions centered on the SD Committee, and has enacted continuous initiatives to solidify knowledge related to University management shared among faculty and staff, all of which are highly valued as they are expected to promote future collaborations.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The degree award policies for the first and last years of the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Literature do not indicate the learning outcomes - including knowledge, skills, and abilities - that students will need to attain for the degree, and this must be improved.
- The Faculty of Literature, and the Faculty of International Politics and Economics’ Department of International Politics and Economics and Department of International Business do not present their basic ideas on curriculum implementation in the curriculum design and implementation policy. The first and last years of the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Literature do not indicate a curriculum design and implementation policy that corresponds with each degree, and this must be improved.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The University does not conduct any graduate school-specific FD activities relating to educational improvement and this must be improved so that FD activities are

appropriately implemented as master's programs, doctoral programs as a whole (the first and last years), and each graduate division.