

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

Ferris University



<b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016 – March.31.2023)	

## Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Ferris University

### Overview

Ferris University (hereafter, the University) originated in 1870 as Ferris Seminary, which started as an educational project that succeeded a private school in a corner of the Hepburn's facility. Thereafter, Ferris Seminary reformed itself as a junior college. In 1965, the college was re-established as Ferris University. Currently, the University, which has three faculties and three graduate schools on two campuses in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, has implemented women's education based on Christian beliefs.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University implemented its "13-16 PLAN" (a mid-term plan) in 2012. In this plan, the University consolidated concrete action plans on policies and measures that it will focus on in the future by paying attention to issues revealed in self-studies. In addition, the University has followed the progress toward achievements of the objectives set in each project. The University has built a system to reflect the status of these objectives in a budget plan or project in the following academic year.

The University offers a unique education. For example, in the university-wide "General Studies", the University has enhanced its students' motivation to learn by offering them opportunities to propose the content of the course. Additionally, in keeping with its educational philosophy, "For Others," the University has worked vigorously towards making a variety of social contributions. For instance, the University has embarked on eco-campus activities as well as a wide range of volunteer activities, and has held events in tandem with student organizations. By taking part in these activities, students have cultivated their spirit of independence.

However, the University still has a number of issues to address. In the Department of Musical Arts in the College of Music, there is a shortage of one professor to meet the legal requirements, and this must be corrected. As for its enrollment cap management, the Department of Performing Arts in the College of Music must improve its fulfillment rate in enrollment. Based on its midterm plans, it is expected that the University will work to establish a functional system to follow the status of annual plans to improve these matters, and will also work towards improvement in the quality of its education.

### Notable Strengths

#### *Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome*

- It is commendable that the University has enhanced students' spirit of independence, improved their motivation to learn, and broadened their views. The University has offered a university-wide "General Studies" in which the students are allowed to propose "what they want to learn," and the theme of the course is selected through a contest of proposals. In 2015, "The Light and Shadow of the Olympics" was selected as the theme of the course, and many students participated.

#### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- It is commendable that, the University has worked for a wide range of social contribution activities in line with its educational philosophy, "For Others." For example, the University has actively engaged in social contribution activities mainly through the volunteer center, and since 2011, it has worked to support reconstruction resulting from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Specifically, the University holds its "Summer School Program @ Yokohama," where children from

Fukushima Prefecture are invited to Yokohama. The University has also implemented “the School Song Regeneration Project” for the Akasaki junior high schools that lost audio sources and music scores of school song in the tsunami caused by the earthquake. In addition, public readings by teams of graduates and students have been held.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome*

- The curriculum design policy in the Division of Music in the Graduate School does not state the basic idea on which content and method of education are based. This should be improved.
- In the doctoral programs in the Division of Humanities and the Division of Global and Inter-cultural Studies, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the University before completing their dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the University. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have the enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having doctoral programs, the University should create measure to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

### *Enrollment*

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshman to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.86, and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is also low at 0.84 in the Department of Performing Arts in the College of Music. These should be improved. The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.47 in the master's program in the Division of Humanities, and no students are admitted or enrolled in the doctoral program in the Division of Global and Inter-cultural Studies. These should be improved.
- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.50 in the Department of Global and Inter-cultural Studies in the Faculty of Global and Inter-cultural Studies. This should be improved.

## **Area of Serious Concern**

### *Faculty and Faculty Organization*

- In principle, the Department of Musical Arts in the College of Music should hire one more professor in order to satisfy the legal requirements. This must be corrected.