

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

The University of Fukuchiyama



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the University of Fukuchiyama

Overview

The University of Fukuchiyama (hereafter, the University) succeeded Kyoto Sosei University, which was founded in Fukuchiyama City, Kyoto Prefecture in 2000 through public-private cooperation between Fukuchiyama City and Seibi Gakuen. It was renamed Seibi University in 2010, and its establishing body was changed in 2016 from Seibi Gakuen to a public university corporation that was newly established by Fukuchiyama City, at which time it took its current name and adopted a structure consisting of two departments in the Faculty of Regional Management.

In 2015, the Prefectural University Establishment Preparation Committee established by Fukuchiyama City adopted a basic principle of “University for Citizens, University for Community, and University that Moves Hand-In-Hand with the World” with an aim of making the University open to the world that contributes to the world by conducting research and studies on various local issues and solving those issues, developing human resources who will shape the future of the community, and establishing “learning centers” for local residents. Based on that new basic principle, the University formulated the University of Fukuchiyama Primary Mid-Term Plan (the “Primary Mid-Term Plan”) for the period from 2016 to 2021 and has been carrying out education and research activities.

Since undergoing the previous accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010 as Seibi University, in connection with the change to the establishing body, the University has made efforts for significant improvements in all aspects of the University including personnel affairs of faculty members and educational reforms in order to realize that basic principle and it has promoted reforms in a proactive and sincere manner. In particular, the University provides classes incorporating active learning, and as extracurricular activities as well, it is making efforts to build mechanisms to connect students with the community through “Kita-re,” an activity space on campus established for initiatives to promote regional partnership. These activities are expected to develop further as a distinctive feature of the University.

However, weaknesses were found in the modality of “education through collaboration with the local community” (practical education), which is viewed by the University as the axis of education, and a number of initiatives such as students quota management and development of facilities and equipment. The efforts to make

improvements in these areas have not produced adequate results at the time of the review as it has not been long since the University became a public university corporation and it is still in the process of making improvements and reforms. Also, the review system for some of the initiatives is not clear, so there is a need to make improvements to verify the appropriateness of the initiatives and establish a mechanism that will lead to improvements and reforms.

Suggestions for Improvement

Education and Research Environment

- The University has no on-campus gymnasium facility and it uses a gymnasium owned by a nearby high school upon application, but that gymnasium is not fully available for use by University students because most of the time it is used by the high school. This issue needs to be addressed.
- The Media Center library does not have full-time librarian or other staff with expert knowledge. This needs to be rectified.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University did not conduct a self-study for a certain period before it became a public university corporation. Also, it has not established a mechanism that reflects the results of the self-study it conducted in 2016 in its annual plan, etc. The University should therefore develop a mechanism that will lead to an improvement of the issues identified through self-study and make that mechanism function.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- In 2017, the average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the last five years at the Faculty of Regional Management (the entire university) was low

at 0.85 for the faculty as a whole and 0.63 for the Department of Medical and Welfare Management. The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap at the Department of Medical and Welfare Management is also low at 0.63. This issue must be addressed.