

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

Gakushuin University



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

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Gakushuin University

Overview

Gakushuin University (hereafter, the University), which was established under the new education system in 1949, succeeded Gakushuin School, which was originally founded in 1877 as a school for the nobility. Since then, the University has expanded to four faculties, six graduate schools, and one professional graduate school. It will open the Faculty of International Social Sciences in April 2016. The University has its campus in Toshima, Tokyo, and engages in education and research activities according to its founding spirit.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University discussed the measures necessary to carry out drastic reforms in faculty development (FD) with the Faculty Development Committee initiative and has strived to raise awareness among faculty members through FD lectures across the University. The University created its own self-study sheet in 2010 and developed and revised several policies in 2015 under the University's principal policy in an effort to assure the quality of education.

In this accreditation review, JUAA has noted that seminars addressing the job interview process, where graduates share their employment experiences with students, have been well attended and have successfully motivated students to prepare for job hunting.

However, several issues concerning educational content and methods must be addressed. In the graduate schools, the methods used to assess achievement in undergraduate classes taken as required credits should be improved. In addition, the balance of course work and research in the curriculum needs to be improved. Furthermore, most of the graduate schools have not formulated their research guidance plans. The faculties are facing difficulties in regards to the maximum number of credits that students can register in a year. Lastly, in regards to student enrollment, certain faculties accept more students than their quotas allow.

Prior to this accreditation review, the Law School had already undergone professional school accreditation review by the National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE) in 2013 and been accredited. Thus, JUAA reviewed the School this time by examining the improvements from 2013 onwards from the standpoint of university accreditation (institutional certified evaluation and accreditation).

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- It is commendable that the University makes efforts to stimulate the motivation of students for job hunting, with an abundance of graduates and students engaging in these efforts. In particular, graduates and fourth-year students who receive offers for employment teach a seminar on the job interview process that provides third-year students with guidance and advice through group discussions, mock job-interviews, and tips on presenting oneself appropriately. In addition, individuals who teach the seminar organize the executive committee and continually review the planning and management of the seminar.

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- With regard to the criteria for recruitment, hiring, and promotion, the entire University (except for the Faculty of Science) indicates only requirements and required years of experience which the law stipulates; no other requirements are explicitly stated for specific job positions at the University. This should be improved.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the doctoral program in the Faculty of Law, the policy on degree award do not state learning outcome at the time of program completion. This should be improved.
- In the master's program of the Graduate School of Political Studies, the Graduate School of Economics, the Graduate School of Management, the Graduate School of Humanities, and the Graduate School of Natural Science, certain undergraduate courses are allowed to be taken and are accepted as a part of the required credits. However, assessment criteria are not clearly separated from what is used in the undergraduate programs. This should be improved from the perspective of quality assurance of education.
- The curriculum of the doctoral programs in the graduate courses in chemistry and life science in the Graduate School of Natural Science contains an imbalance of research and course work. Considering the objectives of the credit-based degree-granting system, the doctoral program should offer appropriate educational content.
- The Faculty of Letters (except for the Department of Education) and the Faculty of Science do not set a maximum limit on the number of credits students are allowed to register in a year. The Department of Education in the Faculty of Letters also does not set a limit for second-, third-, or fourth-year students, and the Department of Political Studies in the Faculty of Law does not set a limit for second-, third-, or fourth-year students. The Department of Law in the Faculty of Law sets the limit high at 52 credits. This situation should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- In the Graduate School of Law, the research instruction plan is not clearly or sufficiently stated to students. This should be improved.
- The Graduate School of Political Studies, the Graduate School of Economics, and the Graduate School of Management use the same evaluation criteria for both the research achievement on a specific topic and the master's thesis. This practice should be improved.

Enrollment

- The ratios of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are low in each of the following programs: 0.40 in the masters' program in the Graduate School of Economics, 0.25 in the masters' program in the Graduate School of Management, 0.22 in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Law, 0.27 in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Politics, and 0.22 in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Economics.

Area of Serious Concern

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- Research instruction plans have not been written in the master's and doctoral programs in the Graduate School of Political Studies, the Graduate School of Economics, or the Graduate School of Management. These situations must be corrected, so that instruction for research and writing up theses and dissertations will be given based on the plan.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap in the Department of Physics is high at 1.22, and the average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.21 and 1.25 respectively in the Department of Life Science in the Faculty of Science. These numbers must be improved.