

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

Digital Hollywood University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, 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 Digital Hollywood University

Overview

Digital Hollywood University (hereafter, the University) was founded in 2004 as a Corporate University granted government approval for establishment as an exception to the School Education Act, based on the Act on Special Districts for Structural Reform. With a campus in Surugadai, a district in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo, and a production studio in Hachioji, a western Tokyo suburb, the University first opened as a professional graduate school and was chartered as a four-year university in 2005. At the undergraduate level, the University offers higher education based on the three concepts of authenticity, morality, “beauty and ugliness,” and operates with the mission to “develop human resources who can contribute broadly to the development of society and the realization of associated research and development.”

The University underwent the Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation (JIHEE) institutional accreditation review in 2010 and has since strived to address the four issues identified as areas of improvement.

The key feature of the University identified by this latest review is its successful efforts in helping students launch new ventures through linking academic learning to practical applications.

As for areas of improvement, four issues were identified by the review. First, although the faculty composition policy proclaims “education bridging theory and practice,” there are too few theory-teaching teachers on staff and the faculty composition does not properly reflect this policy. Second, although the undergraduate program and the professional graduate program have separate founding objectives, they share the same faculty qualification assessment criteria. Third, the maximum number of credits a student can take in a year is set too high; and fourth, the Media Library is not staffed by full-time specialists with relevant expertise.

The University is a new institution specializing in digital content, a field whose practical aspects are well established but remains a fledgling research discipline. Meaningful initiatives led by faculty members, such as the creation of the Creative Content Research Association, suggest the University is well positioned to establish the field as a distinct research focus by identifying the common features and defining boundaries with other disciplines, and become a leader of digital content education and

research.

It should be mentioned that the Graduate School of Digital Content underwent certified evaluation and accreditation for professional graduate schools by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) this year. This review therefore does not include evaluations for “Education content, methods, and outcome” for the graduate school, and the results are as given in the evaluation report of the certified evaluation and accreditation for professional graduate schools of digital content.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University places a strong emphasis on creating opportunities to apply what students have learned to practical issues and situations, for example, by hosting a presentation event of outstanding works where students present their business plans or productions to audiences from inside and outside the school. This learning environment has spawned numerous start-ups, making the University one of Japan’s top-ranking institutions in the number of university-originated ventures in METI’s 2016 Academic Start-ups Survey. Moreover, to further strengthen its support for start-ups, the University launched the Acceleration Program in 2016 that provides practical instructions on everything from prototyping to fund raising. These efforts indicate that the University is actively striving to implement programs designed to meet its mission and goals, and are commendable.

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- Although the education and research objectives set by the undergraduate and graduate schools, as well as the faculty composition policy, emphasize research based on liberal arts and academic knowledge, and promote education linking theory to practice, the University has few full-time academic faculty members. The University is advised to ensure that its faculty composition reflects the stated education and research objectives and aligns with the faculty composition policy.

- The University is advised to establish separate teacher qualification assessment criteria for its undergraduate program and professional graduate program, which currently share the same criteria.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The University sets the maximum number of credits a undergraduate student can take in a year at 52, which is too high. This limit should be lowered in light of the purpose of the credit system.

Education and Research Environment

- The Media Library's dedicated librarian is a part-time employee subject to the Employment Rules for Contract Employees and Assistant Staff. The University is advised to ensure the library is staffed by a full-time specialist with relevant expertise.