Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
for Professional Graduate School of Digital Contents

Digital Hollywood University, Graduate School

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited　（Accreditation Period: April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2027）	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results
for Digital Hollywood University, Graduate School

The mission of Digital Hollywood University, Graduate School is "to nurture individuals who can contribute to the development of human society in general by creating and developing new knowledge relationships from the countless pieces of knowledge produced by humankind, as well as contributing to the development of culture and industry by conducting practical research and development associated with the aforementioned goal." In order to achieve this mission, the graduate school has as its educational purpose "to conduct advanced specialized education that connects theory with practice in the SEAD field—an emerging field of study in which the knowledge, techniques, and skills of science, engineering, art, and design mutually affect each other—and nurture individuals capable of conducting social implementation for the prosperity and sustainable development of human society." In line with this purpose, the full-time teaching staff at the Media Science Laboratory conduct research in the fields of digital media and digital content toward training individuals who can create new industries and culture through digital technology and content and who can spread and develop content and businesses that leverage creativity and digital technology for society, striving to develop systematic digital content theories based on the research outcomes.

The graduate school underwent the first ever Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate School of Digital Contents by the JUAA in 2017. Since issues were identified regarding the development of a curriculum and faculty for connecting theory and practice, the accreditation results requested the Graduate School to apply for the next Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate School of Digital Contents as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the Graduate School has fundamentally revised its educational purpose and curriculum, creating the current SEAD concept and reorganizing the curriculum around it. In addition, the Graduate School has hired new teaching staff capable of teaching theory to develop a faculty suitable for conducting education aimed at connecting theory and practice. In the process, as the field of digital content is not necessarily based on existing academic fields, the Graduate School has promoted digital content research as mentioned above, while also utilizing the research results in education and making various improvements.

The current Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate

School of Digital Contents identified distinctive initiatives such as those below. First, alongside addressing various issues, the Graduate School has formulated the DHU 2025 AGENDA as a medium- to long-term strategy to conduct education that leverages the school's characteristics, clearly presenting the guiding principles for university startups and social cooperation. In addition, the Graduate School holds public presentation sessions featuring outstanding works and business plans chosen from among students' completion projects, which are compilations of their study and research, as well as holding the Digital Frontier Grand Prix in the entrance ceremony, which involves presenting awards to the year's graduates who have produced remarkable works. It is thus commendable that the Graduate School actively disseminates its educational and research objectives by presenting the achievements of its graduates to a broad audience. Second, as distinctive endeavors aimed at enhancing the quality of completion projects, the Graduate School offers subjects that allow students to engage in their completion project in a stepwise manner from the first year, provides students the opportunity to have an interview to select a suitable supervisor for them, and also enables students to gain advice from multiple teaching staff even after starting research.

Therefore, as described above, the Graduate School has been initiating many improvements during the last four years. However, as further improvement is required for the areas described below, it needs to make quality assurance efforts in its professional degree program.

First of all, in terms of designing a curriculum for connecting theory and practice, the Graduate School has clarified the subjects designed for learning the basics and theories of digital content by reorganizing the curriculum around the SEAD concept. However, as only the two credits of Principles of Advanced Science and Principles of Advanced Art are required subjects, the Graduate School should provide a curriculum and guidance for taking courses that allow students to sufficiently acquire the basics and theories while making efforts to improve fundamental and theoretical digital content subjects. In relation to the above, the Graduate School has been recruiting a new academic faculty member each year in an effort to organize a faculty with a good balance between practitioner faculty members and academic faculty members. The JUAA hopes the Graduate School continues to appropriately hire and assign teaching staff to achieve a faculty suitable for conducting education aimed at connecting theory and practice.

Next, it is appropriate that the Graduate School has formulated and implemented criteria for completion projects and clearly presented the perspectives of evaluation to students. However, in order to identify and evaluate educational outcomes, it needs to

clarify the skills students are expected to acquire through the completion project and develop a system that allows evaluation based on comparison with the skills (learning outcomes) presented in the degree award policy (diploma policy) that students must acquire by graduation. Additionally, although the Graduate School has attempted to identify outcomes on the basis of the number of completion projects that led to university startups, it should employ a variety of other methods, such as identifying/analyzing the number of awarded degrees and the careers and achievements of graduates on an organizational scale, to assess the achievement of its educational and research objectives.

The Graduate School should ensure faculty diversity in terms of gender balance, etc. In addition, although the Graduate School has launched the Collaboration Council for Educational Program (Advisory Board) and incorporated opinions gathered there into its curriculum, the relevant information is not published on the school website, etc. Therefore, the Graduate School should strive to disclose information in accordance with the relevant laws.

As described above, through cutting-edge initiatives the Graduate School is making constant efforts to present new forms of digital communication for an advanced information society that involve the utilization of digital content, which is significant to the future of society. In order to implement the above, the JUAA hopes the Graduate School ensures organizational continuity while actively promoting research in the digital content field to develop a systematic program for theory education.