

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

Kanagawa University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kanagawa University

Overview

The founding spirits of Kanagawa University are “Sincere and Resilient,” “Forward-thinking,” and “Balanced and Steady.” Its purpose is defined as “to develop individuals who have the judgment and practical ability of independent and responsible citizens, an international outlook and communication skills, and specialized knowledge and expertise, and who are able to grow through their own efforts” In addition, the University has established a long-term vision, the “Action Plan for the Kanagawa University Vision for the Future [2018–2028] (hereinafter the “Future Vision Action Plan”), to fulfill its mission and objectives, as well as the goals of each faculty and graduate school. Under this plan, specific items to be implemented ahead of the University’s 100th anniversary in 2028 have been drawn up as a five-year medium-term plan, and projects are being implemented accordingly.

In 2012, a university-wide policy on internal quality assurance was put in place, and in 2019, in order to strengthen the internal quality assurance system, a system was established centered on the “Kanagawa University University-Wide Self-Assessment and Evaluation Committee” (hereinafter the “University-Wide Self-Assessment and Evaluation Committee”) as the university-wide organization responsible for the promotion of internal quality assurance. Initiatives to enhance education and improve learning outcomes, etc., as well as the systematic implementation of improvements and enhancements based on the self-study results, are now underway. However, systematic implementation of self-study in each faculty and graduate school has not yet taken place, and support for improvements based on the results of self-study has not yet been fully established. Going forward, in accordance with the “Internal Quality Assurance Policy,” improvements are required to ensure systematic implementation of self-study, support for improvements in each organization, and close collaboration among organizations, with an appropriate internal quality assurance system in place to enable each faculty and graduate school to steadily make improvements and enhancements based on the self-study results.

Regarding education, all faculties and graduate schools have organized their curricula appropriately based on the University’s mission and purpose and in accordance with the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy). Furthermore, in the undergraduate

program, efforts are being made to energize student learning, such as offering the First Year Seminar (FYS) in the first year of study and introducing a minor system. On the other hand, although the school has begun examining methods of measuring the learning outcomes specified in the degree award policy, it is difficult at present to say that learning outcomes are being ascertained in a manner that relates clearly to the degree award policy. This should be improved.

One outstanding initiative is the active development of a variety of social cooperation and social contribution activities throughout the University. In particular, it is commendable that the University has established and is actively engaged in a variety of social cooperation and social contribution activities closely connected to the community, such as the “Machi [Locality] x Student Project,” in cooperation with Kanagawa Ward, where the University’s main Yokohama Campus is located. Furthermore, at the newly established Minato Mirai Campus, the Social Commons and the Center for Cooperation with Society within it were established to unify the various initiatives that the University has launched to date, already embarking on specific activities. As an organization designed to further bolster the University’s distinctive initiatives, it is expected to deliver results to that end.

However, there are several issues that should be improved. Some departments have a low ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. At the graduate level, while some graduate schools have extremely high ratios of students to the enrollment cap, there are many others with extremely low ratios. Accordingly, this should be improved to ensure proper student quota management. Also required is the steady implementation of staff development (hereinafter “SD”) regarding university administration for faculty members.

Going forward, the JUAA hopes to see the University make further progress by substantiating the system that has been put in place to promote internal quality assurance, connecting the PDCA cycle of the institution as a whole to those conducted by faculties, graduate schools, etc., and promoting initiatives for improvement and enhancement.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Various social cooperation and contribution activities have been undertaken, taking advantage of the characteristics as an integrated university in the Tokyo metropolitan area. In particular, the “Machi [Locality] x Student Project,” in which students take the initiative in participating in the local community, has

been engaged in various activities on the basis of two-way exchanges of opinions between students and the local community. The initiatives underway include having students negotiate with local businesses and open a marché (market) on campus to exhibit and sell local products, as well as having students learn about dementia and conduct dementia supporter training courses. These are commendable not only for helping to bring together the University and the community, but also for promoting independent learning on the part of students.

- In conjunction with the opening of the Minato Mirai Campus in 2021, the Center for Cooperation with Society has been established on that campus to promote strategies for social cooperation, and the Social Commons has been created as a space for co-creation through the exchange of knowledge. The Social Commons offers products and other items linked to the students' educational programs, as well as access to the knowledge of Kanagawa University and its partner companies. In addition to promising partnerships with a wide variety of companies, etc., that take advantage of the University's location, this initiative is commendable as an effort to strengthen systems of social cooperation and contribution systems while making the most of the strengths of the campus development plan.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The relationship between the Committee for Academic Reform and the University-Wide Self-Assessment and Evaluation Committee, as well as the relationships between the Committee for Academic Reform and individual organizations and divisions are not systematically organized, and the allocation of powers and roles has not been made sufficiently clear. Since management by the University-Wide Self-Assessment and Evaluation Committee is not functional, and actual internal quality assurance is based on individual measures at each institution and division, improvements are required to ensure that the internal quality assurance system is properly established and functions effectively. Additionally, a system for periodic checks and reviews of the adequacy of the internal quality assurance system should be systematically established, and the check and review results should be used to improve and enhance the internal quality assurance system.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- In all faculties and graduate schools except the Faculty of Business Administration, the relationship between the learning outcomes stipulated in the degree award policies and the methods used to ascertain learning outcomes is not clear. This should be improved.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.86 for the Faculty of Engineering's Department of Material and Life Chemistry. This should be improved to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.
- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is high at 4.56 for the Doctoral Program for the Graduate School of History and Folklore Studies, and low at 0.25 for the Master's Program for the Graduate School of Law, 0.11 for the Doctoral Program for the Graduate School of Law, 0.15 for the Master's Program for the Graduate School of Economics, 0.08 for the Doctoral Program for the Graduate School of Economics, 0.11 for the Doctoral Program for the Graduate School of Business Administration, and 0.36 for the Doctoral Program for the Graduate School of Human Sciences. This should be improved to ensure proper graduate student quota management.

University Management and Finance

- SD regarding university administration for faculty members is not conducted. This should be improved.