

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

Kyoto Sangyo University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2023	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2031)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kyoto Sangyo University

Overview

Kyoto Sangyo University has created the unique concept of “Musubiwaza,” or “producing new industries and things,” based on part of its name “Sangyo (industry).” (The Japanese kanji for “sangyo” are “san,” meaning “produce,” and “gyo,” which means “industry,” and can also be read as “waza.” “Musubu” is derived from “musu” meaning “produce.”) With this concept, along with its founding principles and educational philosophy, the University presents its ideal of a university and students from the perspective of cultivating “musubu-hito (creators/producers).” In 2015, marking the 50th anniversary of its founding, the University formulated the Koyama Style 2030 medium-to long-term plan as a grand design for what it aspires to be in 2030, and strives to enhance its educational and research activities under the plan that serves as a guideline for specific measures related to university reform and infrastructure development.

The University has engaged in social contribution and community collaboration activities under the slogan “Musunde Umidasu (connect and create)” based on the concept of Musubiwaza. Among the representative examples is Machiya Manabi Terrace Nishijin, which provides opportunities for people of various ages and occupations to interact. The facility produces such educational benefits as encouraging students to freely generate ideas and enhancing their planning, action, and communication skills. In this way, the University undertakes distinctive social contribution and community collaboration activities by supporting students’ learning experiences of “Musunde Umidasu,” and offering its resources to the local community through its students.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the University established the Kyoto Sangyo University Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedures in AY2022, and appropriately clarifies its internal quality assurance policy and procedures by informing faculty and staff members through the Division Chief Meeting and the Section Chief Meeting as well as publishing the documents on its website. The inspection and assessment results of the faculties, graduate schools, and divisions are compiled by the Kyoto Sangyo University Self-Study Management Committee (hereafter “University-Wide Self-Study Management Committee”) from a university-wide perspective, and the Division Chief Meeting issues instructions for improvement based on the results. These improvement instructions are also reflected in the Koyama Style 2030 action plan to make

faculty and program improvements. However, the Koyama Style 2030 Review Meeting also plays a part in the internal quality assurance system at the university level, although the Kyoto Sangyo University Internal Quality Assurance Approaches and Procedures, made public inside and outside the University, does not include this meeting body in the internal quality assurance system chart. It is desirable to revise the system chart to be more in line with the current situation. In addition, self-study reports prepared by the faculties, graduate schools, and other programs based on their inspection and assessment results undergo the approval process at the Division Chief Meeting, but it is unclear how the meeting body actually instructs each division to undertake improvement measures in response to the issues identified in the division-level self-studies. The University should organically connect the cycles of division-level and university-level inspections, assessments, and improvements.

As for education, the University's educational and research organizations are all located on a single campus (single-site comprehensive university) to create an environment that facilitates educational activities combining liberal arts and science, and to launch programs designed in light of current academic trends and social demands. The undergraduate programs have laid out course numbering systems, combined general and specialized education subjects, teaching methods, and evaluations of student learning outcomes based on the university-wide curriculum policy to teach students to acquire the knowledge stated in the diploma policy. The University outlines eight abilities and skills for the learning outcomes stated in the faculty-wide diploma policy and designs a curriculum map to illustrate the relationship between each subject and these abilities and skills, with these items publicized to faculty and staff members and reflected in the syllabuses as well.

There are several areas of improvement the University should address, however. First, some of the graduate school's divisions do not state the specific concepts of educational methods in their curriculum policies. This situation should be addressed. The screening criteria for dissertations are specified for each course, but the content excluding submission requirements is identical in certain divisions, and this issue should be addressed. Some master's programs clearly explain the process from enrollment to degree acquisition as a research guidance plan in the Kyoto Sangyo University Graduate School Course Registration Guide, but fail to specify the research guidance methods and schedules. These items must be established and clarified to students beforehand. Moreover, some faculties and graduate school divisions have low ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap, and should thoroughly manage their student quotas.

In the years ahead, the University is expected to resolve these issues through ongoing internal quality assurance efforts, and to progress further by enhancing its distinctive initiatives that take advantage of a single-site comprehensive university.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- “Machiya Manabi Terrace Nishijin” functions as a base for creating new value for the Nishijin brand while promoting coexistence and cooperation with the local community and preserving the traditions and culture that the Nishijin region has treasured. This initiative is producing positive outcomes, such as creating new businesses, and embodies the University’s Musubiwaza spirit. The facility is utilized as a place where local residents, business people, and students gather for diverse learning activities, providing students with opportunities to experience this spirit. These social cooperation and contribution efforts are commendable.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- In terms of the curriculum policy, the Master’s Program in Sociology, Division of Sociology, does not specify the basic concept of curriculum implementation. This issue should be addressed.
- The maximum number of credits students can register for is specified, but students are allowed to register for credits exceeding the upper limit. The syllabuses describe the contents of preparation and review, offer guidance to students intending to take the teacher training course, and give advice to students with a low number of credits. However, these measures insufficiently ensure credit validity as the guidance is not based on the actual learning status of the students who exceed the credit cap. This issue should be addressed in light of the purpose of the credit system.
- The Division of Frontier Informatics has established dissertation screening criteria for each program, but the content excluding submission requirements is identical.

This issue should be addressed.

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.88 in the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, 0.13 in the Master's Program in Management, Division of Management, 0.22 in the Doctoral Program in Management, Division of Management, 0.10 in the Master's Program in Law, Division of Law, 0.10 in the Doctoral Program in Law, Division of Law, 0.14 in the Master's Program, Division of Foreign Languages, and 0.28 in the Doctoral Program in Science, Division of Science. These ratios should be improved with the student quotas of faculties and graduate school divisions thoroughly managed.

Recommendation

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The research guidance methods and schedules are not defined in the Master's Program in Economics, Division of Economics; Master's Program in Management, Division of Management; Master's Program in Law, Division of Law; Master's Program in Interdisciplinary Studies in Law and Policy, Division of Law; Master's Program in Sociology, Division of Sociology; Master's Program in Chinese Linguistics, Division of Foreign Languages; Master's Program in Mathematics, Division of Science; Master's Program in Physics, Division of Science; Master's Program in Frontier Informatics, Division of Frontier Informatics; Master's Program in Life Sciences, Division of Life Sciences; Master's Program in Economics, Division of Economics, Correspondence Education; and Master's Program in Kyoto Studies, Division of Kyoto Studies, Correspondence Education. This situation must be corrected with the methods and schedules established and clarified to students beforehand.