

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

Keiai University



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Chiba, 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 Keiai University

Overview

The principle of school's foundation of Keiai University is "Worship Thy Heaven, Love Thy Neighbour," and its purpose is to "provide a university education that imparts knowledge broadly, teaches and researches highly specialized arts and sciences, and develops intellectual, moral, and applied abilities in accordance with the Basic Act on Education and the School Education Act, and thereby to develop capable members of society who will contribute to the advancement of culture." In addition, the University has developed "Keiai Vision 2030," a vision of what the school should aspire to be, and "Medium-Term Plan '24," a medium- to long-term policy that considers changes in society and the future of the University.

With regard to internal quality assurance, one of the efforts called for in the association's 2014 evaluation (accreditation) was to develop and implement a functioning internal quality assurance system. In response to this, the University has established bodies such as the "University Management Council," "Academic Management Council," and "Self- Inspection/Assessment Committee," but the relationships between the relevant bodies and the powers they hold have not been made clear. In addition, the Self-Study Committee compiles the activities conducted by individual faculties, departments, administrative departments, and other organizations in the "Self-Study Report (Annual Report)" (hereinafter the "Annual Report"). However, the Academic Management Council, which is positioned as an organization for promoting internal quality assurance, just gives approval to the self-study conducted by individual faculties and departments and the proposals for improvement based on them. As such, in light of the university-wide policy, it cannot be said to play a substantial role in internal quality assurance or to be contributing to the enhancement of education and learning outcomes. This has resulted in the self-inspection/assessment implemented by individual organizations not functioning adequately. Based on the above, it cannot be said that the internal quality assurance system is effectively functioning based on clearly defined policies and procedures for the University as a whole, and this should be corrected.

Regarding education, all faculties and departments have organized their curricula appropriately conform to the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy). However, it is

difficult to say that a university-wide check and review of their appropriateness are conducted. Although the University has established a limit on the number of credits that students can register for, using GPA as a measure to energize student learning and provide effective education, other initiatives are not systematically implemented from a university-wide perspective, and verification of the assessment of academic achievement and granting of credits depends on the efforts of individual faculty members. Going forward, it is hoped that university-wide management of teaching and learning will be made functional.

In terms of career support for students, the University offers a variety of career-focused subjects from the first year under its unique Chiba Ichiban Project to develop students into active members of society, and in AY2019, it fully introduced an AI-based retrospective analysis system (TIARA) to help visualize the results of their studies. This system provides feedback on appropriate guidance to each student based on the student's progress through the program in lectures, etc. This is a cutting-edge and outstanding initiative that the JUAA can expect to see develop further in the future.

In addition, various community-based initiatives are being undertaken in cooperation with local governments. Various community contribution projects grounded in the characteristics of the region are carried out not only by the "Community Relation Center" and the Comprehensive Institute for Area Studies, but also as part of undergraduate education, forming a cycle of mutual collaboration between students, faculty, and the local economy. This is an excellent initiative.

In general, it can be said that individual organizations, such as faculties, departments, and divisions, are taking steps toward improvement. However, since the roles and powers of the internal quality assurance promotion bodies have not been clearly defined, it is hoped that the University will establish a PDCA cycle that links these efforts to check, review, and improve from the perspective of the University as a whole.

In the future, it is hoped that efforts to improve the functioning of the internal quality assurance promotion bodies themselves will enable the effective functioning of the university-wide internal quality assurance system, and that the various activities currently being undertaken will be re-examined from the perspective of the University as a whole, leading to further development.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- To enhance career support, the unique Chiba Ichiban Project, which aims to develop students into individuals who can play an active role in society, a variety of career-focused subjects, including Career Design and Internships, are offered from the first year. In AY2019, based on the data collected through that project, the University fully introduced an AI-based retrospective analysis system (TIARA) as a tool to enhance the quality of career education. This is commendable as an advanced initiative to visualize student learning and its results while providing feedback to students, and going forward, it is expected to be applied not only to career education but also to specialized education.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Community Relation Center was launched in AY2017 to address the University's task of creating an organization responsible for university-wide regional cooperation, and through the improvement of university-wide initiatives, the Center, together with the Comprehensive Institute for Area Studies, is implementing various regional contribution projects that are rooted in the characteristics of the Chiba region. In addition, the University has also adopted community contribution activities as part of its undergraduate education, forming a cycle of mutual collaboration between students, faculty, and the local economy, and providing benefits to all participating parties, which is commendable.

Recommendation

Internal Quality Assurance

- The regulations of the University Management Council, the body involved in internal quality assurance, do not include information on internal quality assurance in the "Advisory Matters" section. In addition, the hierarchy and division of roles between the system for promoting internal quality assurance (the Academic Management Council and the University Management Council), and the system for conducting checks and reviews (the Self-Inspection/Assessment Committee) are not clearly stated in the regulations, and there is no coordination among them. The management and improvement support provided by the Academic Management Council for individual faculties and departments' PDCA cycles is inadequate. In some cases, the policies for each activity are not clear, and inspections, assessments and improvements based on the policies are not properly carried out. As such, remedial measures should be taken to make the internal quality assurance system function properly.