

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

Konan University



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Hyogo, Japan |
| Accreditation Status | |
| Year of the Review: 2013 | |
| Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021) | |

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Konan University

Notable Strengths

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that the Faculty of Science and Engineering provides space for students to learn from and teach each other, and facilitates the improvement of basic academic abilities through voluntary student learning. The Faculty of Science and Engineering has set up its own Consultation Office for Studying for the purpose of advising each student. Experienced part-time faculty work for the office and provide guidance to students.
- It is commendable that the information gleaned through classroom observations is shared by all faculty members via faculty meetings, and that faculty members are making efforts to improve their instruction and guidance to the students. The Faculty and School of Frontiers of Innovative Research in Science and Technology hold open lectures and mutual observation of these lectures by other faculty as a part of their faculty development activities. They compile the reviews of open lectures (including comments on the method of instruction and the content of the class) in the “T-Learning Report, and circulate it within the faculty.”
- It is commendable that the faculty responsible for faculty development has a cooperative relationship with the Graduate Student Committee. In the Graduate School of Humanities the Graduate Student Committee for the Improvement of Instruction consists of a student representative from each major, and is responsible for gathering student opinions and listening to student requests. The faculty reviews the students’ opinions and requests, and responds to the chair of the Graduate Student Committee. This facilitates the improvement of curriculum and method of teaching.
- It is commendable that the “Polyvalent” System provides detailed guidance to students that considers their individual progress, research interests, and future career, and also provides multiple perspectives on each student’s research. This system also supports the diversification and sophistication of one’s specialized field. The School of Frontiers of Innovative Research in Science and Technology implements the “Polyvalent” System, in which the faculty are divided into three major groups, the nano group, the bio group, and the nano-bio group. The major advisor and faculty belong to the same group or different groups to collectively provide guidance to graduate students.

Student support

- It is commendable that “My Lab” is actively used by the students for various purposes such as exchanges outside of classes and holding study sessions. The seats are set up in such a way that the students from different classes sit next to each other. In the Faculty of Frontiers of Innovative Research in Science and Technology, “My Lab” has been set up as a voluntary study space for students. “My Lab” is spacious enough to accommodate all enrolled students from Freshmen to Juniors.

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that Konan University Regional Liaison Center (KOREC) has been involved in volunteer activities supporting restoration efforts in the disaster area of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the promotion of a community renovation project in Higashinada-ku in Kobe City, with whom the University signed a regional collaboration agreement, and the promotion of open access to the University library and the Cyber

Library for local residents. KOREC has been set up as an organization that promotes cooperation between the University and the local community. It promotes volunteer efforts and regional collaboration activities as a part of its educational mission.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- Neither the Master's nor the doctoral programs in the School of Frontiers of Innovative Research in Science and Technology define the required learning outcomes for completing the programs in their degree granting policies. This should be improved.
- The Graduate School of Humanities lists the Faculty of Humanities undergraduate courses as "related basic courses" without differentiating the grading methods according to the levels of the students. From the perspective of quality assurance of degree courses, this needs to be improved.
- The syllabi have a unified format throughout the entire University, but the contents of the syllabi vary in their specificities, and some lack specifics in the descriptions of evaluation of students or the lecture content. The syllabi should be improved.
- The maximum number of credits students can register for per year has been set high at 60 for transfer students in the Department of Biology, with no limit in other departments in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The maximum number of credits students can register for per year has been set high at 60 for third- and fourth-years of transfer students in the Faculty of Economics, third-year transfer students in the Faculty of Law, and third-year transfer students in the Faculty of Intelligence and Informatics. These departments should improve this in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.25 in the Department of Sociology and at 1.27 in the Department of History and Culture in the Faculty of Letters, and at 1.23 in the Faculty of Intelligence and Informatics. These departments should improve the numbers. Also, in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the ratio has improved some, but the ratios are high at 1.21 throughout the Faculty, and the Department of Physics, the Department of Biology, and at 1.20 in the Department of Chemistry of Functional Molecules. These departments should improve the numbers.

Education and research environment

- A full-time librarian with professional knowledge of library science has not been hired for the Media Center in the Nishinomiya Campus nor for the library at the Port Island Campus. Professional librarians should be hired for these campuses.