

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

Shujitsu University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Okayama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Shujitsu University

Overview

Shujitsu University, founded on the educational philosophy of “Kyoka-Shujitsu (pursuing not external beauty and vanity but internal self-worth),” states its purpose in the Shujitsu University School Code as “the University, in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of Japan and the Basic Act on Education, conducts academic teaching and research activities as a university stipulated by the Basic Act on Education, and aims to cultivate talented human resources who contribute to the development of culture and the welfare of society based on its founding spirit.” The medium-term plan of Shujitsu Gakuen (incorporated educational institution that operates the University), Shujitsu Vision 120, outlines the four themes of “human resource development,” “social contribution,” “international exchanges,” and “stronger foundation.” Specifically, the plan strives to nurture individuals who can resolutely overcome social challenges from the perspectives of education, research, and student support under the theme of human resource development, and return the educational and research outcomes to society as social contribution. With these aims in mind, the University formulated a medium-term plan in 2020 to set the goals of visualizing student learning outcomes, advancing its educational and research activities through program reform and improvement, and cooperating with the local community in promoting joint research and projects for regional contribution and social cooperation.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the University established a new system in AY2020 with the Self-Study and Improvement Committee headed by the president tasked with promoting internal quality assurance. The inspections and evaluations focus on the University’s educational programs based on the assessment policy as well as the medium-term plan. Still in its early years, the University is expected to effectively operate the system by periodically inspecting, assessing, and improving its functions in a sustainable way from the perspective of internal quality assurance.

As for the University’s education, both undergraduate and graduate schools appropriately design their curricula based on the diploma and curriculum policies, with various approaches adopted to have students visualize the connection between the diploma policies and the lecture subjects using curriculum maps and

course charts. In addition, a rubric has been introduced university-wide to evaluate graduation theses and dissertations in the faculties and graduate schools, and the faculty members in each faculty, department, and graduate school create evaluation sheets to measure student learning outcomes. The University ensures the objectivity and transparency of its evaluations by specifying the rubric as grading methods and criteria in the syllabuses.

The University has undertaken an outstanding initiative in returning its research outcomes to society to promote regional contribution and social cooperation as one of the key items in the medium-term plan. The University published “A Collection of Seeds,” a journal featuring faculty research, with the aim of using its research resources to address social challenges in industry-academia-government collaboration. The publication is distributed to local neighborhood associations, chambers of commerce and industry, and other relevant communities in Okayama Prefecture, and a second publication is scheduled in the near future. It is highly commendable that the University’s continuous and systematic efforts are expected to further increase regional cooperation, social contribution, and research activities as its research outcomes are widely disseminated in Japan and abroad.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy, has a low average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years and a low ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. These ratios must be improved with the school’s student quotas thoroughly managed. The Graduate School of Humanities and the Graduate School of Education have not specified the basic concepts of curriculum implementation in their curriculum policies. This issue should be addressed.

The University is in the process of reviewing the procedures of its internal quality assurance system that recently began operation. In the years ahead, the University is expected to regularly verify the appropriateness of the system to ensure more effective operation, thereby further promoting a wide range of activities based on its founding spirit.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Center for Industrial-Academic-Governmental and Regional Collaboration has

compiled the University's research outcomes, publishing *A Collection of Seeds* in 2021 as part of its efforts to promote the industry-academia-government cooperation in overcoming social challenges based on its faculty members' research. The University distributes the publication to local neighborhood associations, chambers of commerce and industry, and other relevant communities in Okayama Prefecture, while responding to community needs through technical consultation and production development assistance, thereby returning its research outcomes to society. The University is working on a second publication in 2022, and plans to make university-wide efforts to promote regional contribution and social cooperation based on its medium-term goals and plan. It is commendable that the systematic implementation of these activities is highly expected to not only advance the University's cooperation and contribution activities, but also promote its research activities and spread positive outcomes more widely.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Graduate School of Humanities and the Graduate School of Education have not specified their basic concepts of curriculum implementation in the curriculum policies. This issue should be addressed.

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.25 in the Master's program at the Graduate School of Humanities and 0.31 in the Master's program at the Graduate School of Education. These ratios should be improved with the graduate schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy, has a low average ratio of 0.75 in freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over

the past five years and a low ratio of 0.77 in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. These ratios must be improved with the school's student quotas thoroughly managed.