

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

Josai University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Saitama, 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 Josai University

Overview

Josai University, founded on the spirit of “character building through learning,” defines its principle as “to cultivate talented human resources for society and contribute to the development of human culture.” The University sets forth the educational and research purpose “to teach and research knowledge and specialized arts and sciences, and to cultivate human resources who can contribute to the local and international communities in an active and cooperative way a broad range of knowledge, in-depth expertise, and skills by fostering intellectual and moral abilities.” Based on its founding spirit, the university corporation formulated the Josai University Educational Corporation Medium-Term Plan (2020-2024) (hereafter “Midterm Plan”) in 2020 with the mission of fostering independent-minded human resources who respect diverse values. Under this plan, the University has laid out its Midterm Plan with ten specific targets that include “Enhancing of Education and Research” and “strengthening regional contribution.” Moreover, the University formulates its annual activity plan and strives to enhance its educational and research activities by presenting the key items to focus on during the year for each target in the Midterm Plan.

To undertake the above educational and research activities, all faculties and graduate schools have appropriately designed their curricula based on the diploma and curriculum policies. Lectures, seminars, and practical training are adopted according to the types of subjects as appropriate lesson methods of teaching the knowledge and skills students should acquire by the time of course completion, as stated in the educational and research objectives. Active learning, problem-based learning, and other approaches are also used to encourage students’ active participation. In terms of community cooperation, the University has presented its activity plans through the Josai Collaborative Learning and Innovation Project (J-CLIP) with the aim of making community-engaged educational, research, and social contributions. Major community challenges are classified into six projects based on past activities, and relevant subjects are newly established as Community-Engaged Learning Subjects for all students to learn about community issues in specific ways. This is a commendable initiative leading to fostering human resources who can contribute to the local community as stated in the educational and research purpose and the medium-term plan.

Regarding the University's internal quality assurance, a new internal quality assurance system was developed and began operating in AY2023, with the University-Wide Inspection and Assessment Committee (hereafter "University-Wide Committee") and the Teaching and Learning Management Meeting positioned as organizations responsible for promoting the university-wide internal quality assurance. However, the Josai University Self-Inspection and Assessment Regulations does not stipulate the position and role of the Teaching and Learning Management Meeting. The roles and coordination of the University-Wide Committee and the University Management Meeting, which is tasked with reflecting the inspection and assessment results in the University's annual and medium- to long-term plans, are unclear as well. The University should address this situation by reviewing the policies and procedures pertaining to internal quality assurance, clarifying the roles of the organizations responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, and improving the internal quality assurance system that organically coordinates with the faculties, graduate schools, and other organizations.

There are several other areas of improvement the University should address. First, measures to ensure credit validity are ineffective in some faculties. Some departments and graduate schools have low ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap, while certain departments have low average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years. Efforts should be made to fulfill the student enrollment quotas. In terms of education and research environment, the University should develop a system and mechanism for securing research hours for faculty members based on the Education and Research Environment Development Policy. As for faculty organization, the required number of full-time professors fell below the Standards for Establishment of Universities in some academic years, with similar cases pointed out in JUAA's previous certified evaluation and accreditation results. The University is expected to explore well-planned personnel recruitment and promotion from a medium- to long-term perspective.

In the years ahead, the University should make efforts under the newly developed internal quality assurance system to address the issues identified in the self-study results as well as items pointed out in JUAA's latest university evaluation. The University is expected to resolve these problems and further enhance its distinctive initiatives.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University has long engaged in community contribution activities to overcome challenges in cooperation with local governments and businesses, and advanced its past initiatives as the Josai Collaborative Learning and Innovation Project (J-CLIP). J-CLIP newly positions seminars and other sessions involving collaboration between students and community members as Community-Engaged Learning Subjects. It is commendable that the University creates opportunities for students to be involved in community challenges before graduation in an effort to cultivate human resources who can contribute to the community in an active, collaborative way as stated in the educational and research purpose.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University has conducted inspections and assessments under a new internal quality assurance system since AY2023, with the Teaching and Learning Management Meeting positioned as an organization in charge of internal quality assurance. However, the Josai University Self-Inspection and Assessment Regulations does not stipulate the meeting body's position and role. The roles and coordination of the University Management Meeting and the University-Wide Committee, both playing a key part in promoting internal quality assurance, are unclear as well. The University should review the policies and procedures pertaining to internal quality assurance, clarify the roles of the organizations responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, and improve the internal quality assurance system that organically coordinates with the faculties, graduate schools, and other organizations.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The maximum number of credits students can register for in a year is specified, but the Faculty of Science permits students to register for credits exceeding the upper limit when taking free elective subjects related to qualifications, resulting in many students taking courses that surpass the credit cap. Faculty members in charge of free elective subjects instruct these students to study outside of class hours, but this

measure insufficiently ensures credit validity. This issue should be addressed in light of the purpose of the credit system.

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.84 in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, 0.89 in the School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and 0.82 in the Department of Clinical Dietetics and Human Nutrition, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are also low at 0.88 in the School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and 0.81 in the Department of Clinical Dietetics and Human Nutrition, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. These ratios should be improved with the faculties' student quotas thoroughly managed.
- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.43 in the Master's Program in the Graduate School of Science and 0.29 in the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. These ratios should be improved with the graduate schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.

Education and Research Environment

- The system and mechanism for securing research hours for faculty members are inadequately developed. Efforts should be made based on the Education and Research Environment Development Policy to create an environment that facilitates their educational and research activities.