

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

Shirayuri University



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Tokyo, Japan |
| Accreditation Status | |
| Year of the Review: 2017 | |
| Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025) | |

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Shirayuri University

Overview

Shirayuri University (hereafter, the University) was initially the French-English-Japanese Girls' High School founded in 1898 by the Convent of St. Paul of Chartres of France; it was converted into a two-year college in 1950 and subsequently a four-year institution upon moving to its current location in Chofu City, Tokyo in 1965. The University's undergraduate and graduate schools, namely the Faculty of Liberal Arts, the Faculty of Human Studies, and the Graduate School of Liberal Arts, have continuously strived to enhance their education and research activities on the basis of the founding spirit of "character building with a strong emphasis on the Catholic worldview" and "development of women who embody the harmony of intelligence and sensibility" with "truth, goodness, and beauty" as key concepts.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the University's Self-Study Committee addressed the areas of improvement and launched the "PDCA Promotion System," a university-wide internal quality assurance System. However, JUAA has found no evidence that the PDCA cycle is functioning successfully. The University's departments and units are advised to use the PDCA method more effectively to drive improvement.

The "Shirayuri Global Business Program" offered by the Faculty of Liberal Arts is a program unique to the University. With an underlying focus on "monogatariyoku (the ability to construct and tell a story)," which the University defines as the combination of creative thinking skills, cooperative skills, and communication skills that the Faculty of Liberal Arts is committed to developing in students, the program aims to improve student employability, thereby allowing them to respond well to an increasingly globalized business world. Under the program, students take two English language courses, including "Business English," at the level corresponding to their TOEIC[®] scores, then participate in English-speaking internships at companies in Japan or abroad. The program is commended for striving to develop individuals capable of succeeding in a globalizing society.

As for areas of improvement, the Graduate School of Liberal Arts has not yet to develop research instruction plans. This document should be produced to enable professors to supervise their students' research and dissertation projects in accordance with the set instruction plans. On the governance front, the University is advised to formulate rules and

regulations for organizations crucial for implementing education and research activities, such as the Council of the Advisors to the President and the Special Committee for the Graduate School.

It is only recently that the University launched its internal quality assurance System. Going forward, the University is expected to ensure that the programs function properly and make the necessary improvements as it further develops its distinctive strengths.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The Faculty of Liberal Arts offers the “Shirayuri Global Business Program” that focuses on developing through the faculty’s specialized courses the ability to construct and tell a story, or “monogatariyoku,” defined by the University as the combination of creative thinking skills, cooperative skills, and communication skills. It aims to improve the employability of students, enabling them to respond well to an increasingly globalized business world. Under the program, first- and second-year students take two English language courses, one being “Business English,” to learn expressions commonly used in business situations at the level corresponding to their TOEIC[®] scores, in addition to courses on cross-cultural awareness, business etiquette, and hospitality. Third-year students participate in English-speaking internships at companies in Japan or in China, the United States or Australia to acquire practical skills. We commend the program for offering opportunities for students to develop the global awareness and thinking skills necessary to design their own career paths and succeed as independent professionals in an increasingly globalized world. Such opportunities include the “Monogatariyoku Workshop” designed to enhance communication and assertiveness skills, which are prized skills in today’s society.

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The University does not offer professional development opportunities, and the training provided centers mainly on lesson enhancement. The University is advised to enhance its

faculty development programs to improve the quality of its teaching staff.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The Master's and Doctoral Programs in the Department of Developmental Psychology and the Department of Children's Literature offered by the Graduate School of Liberal Arts adopt the same degree award policy. The University is advised to formulate a degree award policy for each individual program.
- The Graduate School of Liberal Arts regulations state that the assessment standards for the "Project on a Specific Research Topic" for the Master's Programs in the Department of Japanese Language and Literature, the Department of French Language and Literature, and the Department of English Language and Literature are equivalent to the thesis assessment standards. The University is advised to establish a separate set of assessment standards for both the "Project on a Specific Research Topic" and dissertations.

Enrollment

- The average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years is high at 1.34 in the Department of Children's Culture, Faculty of Human Studies, and should be lowered.

Education and Research Environment

- Although the University has adopted the Policy on Prevention and Management of Research Misconduct at Shirayuri University, no procedures are in place to respond to incidents of misconduct, and the current prevention program applies exclusively to researchers subsidized by external organizations. The University is advised to establish procedures to ensure integrity and instill a strong sense of research ethics in all full-time teachers and graduate students.

Administration and Finance

- The University is advised to establish rules and regulations for the Council of the

Advisors to the President, the Special Committee for the Graduate School, the Academic Affairs Committee, and other important decision-making bodies to define their roles and authority.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University established the Self-Study Committee and launched the “PDCA Promotion System,” a university-wide internal quality assurance system using the PDCA method. However, the scope of the work undertaken is limited to interventions addressing issues raised during the University accreditation review, with no evidence suggesting the University has conducted self-study and improvement activities in accordance with its own rules and internal quality assurance policy. The University is advised to ensure that the PDCA promotion program is effectively implemented on an institution-wide basis and linked to substantial reform.

Area of Serious Concern

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The Graduate School of Liberal Arts needs to develop research instruction plans for professors to supervise their students’ research and dissertation projects in accordance with the school’s set instruction plans.