

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

Shirayuri University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2024	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2032)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Shirayuri University

Overview

Shirayuri University sets forth the educational philosophy of “helping students develop as individuals in the Christian spirit, with a strong emphasis on the Catholic worldview,” and defines its founding spirit as “striving to cultivate women who embody a harmony of intelligence and sensibility” based on the founding principle of its parent organization. To achieve its founding spirit and purpose, the University has formulated the Shirayuri University President’s Vision Action Plan (AY2021-AY2025) (hereafter “Action Plan”) as a medium-term plan, and strives to enhance its educational and research activities with targets that include “materializing the educational philosophy and consolidating the evaluation and review structure.”

The Internal Quality Assurance Committee has been established as the body responsible for promoting internal quality assurance. Based on the policies set forth by this committee, each organizational unit conducts inspections and evaluations, and formulates proposals for improvement for the following academic year under the supervision of the Self-Study Committee. The Self-Study Committee inspects and assesses the results from a university-wide perspective, and the Internal Quality Assurance Committee issues instructions for improvement to each organization based on the self-study report prepared by the Self-Study Committee. The improvement process, however, has not been developed for items that should be addressed across faculties and graduate school programs. The Internal Quality Assurance Committee and the Self-Study Committee provide insufficient support to improve the items listed as challenges by organizations. These issues should be addressed.

As for education, all faculties and graduate school programs have appropriately designed their curricula based on the diploma and curriculum policies. The faculties have created course charts to illustrate the connection between these policies and subjects, and arranged subjects in a systematic way. To monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes, the faculties conduct questionnaires at the time of enrollment and graduation, and assessment tests, to provide students with the opportunity to check their growth. In addition, the University examines the employment status of graduates and conducts employer surveys to review the effectiveness of student learning in society and other aspects. Graduate school programs monitor and evaluate the student learning outcomes

based on thesis guidance and credit status.

Among the distinctive initiatives is the Advisor System introduced to offer specifically designed student support. Faculty advisors provide students with campus and living support from the first year through individual interviews and other means. In terms of foreign language studies, native speaker teaching assistants (NSTAs) offer assistance to meet the needs of individual students, such as advice on study abroad and speech contests. This commendable support has contributed to improving students' language skills and promoting study abroad programs recommended by the University.

Another distinctive initiative is the University's years of community contribution activities. Notably, the University has signed a mutual friendship and cooperation agreement with Tokyo's Chofu City where the school is located, and is also engaged in cooperation activities with neighboring Mitaka City. For example, animated films created in class are screened in a theater operated by Chofu City, and at the request of the Mitaka City Board of Education, the University provides psychological tests and consultation services at the Clinical Center for Development Disorders. It is commendable that the University helps promote student growth through these efforts, and returns its educational and research outcomes to local communities and society.

There are several areas of improvement the University should address, however. In terms of student enrollment, the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years and the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low in some faculties and departments. These student quotas should be thoroughly managed. With regard to finance, the University is far from establishing a solid financial base to sustainably carry out its educational and research activities due to the faculties' insufficient quota fulfillment in student enrollment. The University is expected to address this issue by taking various steps, including cutting personnel costs, which it views as a challenge.

The University is working together with faculty and staff on various initiatives to upgrade student learning with generous support for individual students, while promoting student independence through volunteer and other activities. In the years ahead, the University is expected to improve the internal quality assurance mechanism to resolve issues and progress further by promoting various efforts across its faculties, graduate school programs, and organizations and by advancing its numerous distinctive activities.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- The Advisor System is established to embody the University's student support policy aimed at improving the quality of each student's campus life. Faculty advisors provide students with learning and living support from the first year through interviews and other means. To support foreign language studies, native speaker teaching assistants (NSTAs) are in place to offer additional assistance outside of regular English and French language course lessons by full-time faculty members. Students can ask NSTAs for advice on study abroad and speech contests. It is commendable that specific support to meet student needs has contributed to improving students' language skills and promoting study abroad programs recommended by the University.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Under the Action Plan aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the University's social cooperation and contribution efforts, the University is promoting community contribution activities in collaboration with Chofu City, where the school is located, and neighboring Mitaka City. For example, the University has been contributing to the creation of local culture for many years at Sengawa Theater operated by Chofu City by holding such events as screening animated films and other works created by faculty members and students in class, as well as reading picture books to children. To support children's development, the Clinical Center for Development Disorders, which conducts research on child development and offers counseling and other services, provides consultations along with graduate students, and undertakes psychological tests at the request of the Mitaka City Board of Education. It is commendable that the University helps promote student growth through these activities and returns its educational and research outcomes to society.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Internal Quality Assurance Committee is established as a university-wide organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, and presents proposals for improvement to organizations and other bodies that conduct self-studies, but the committee does not issue instructions for improvement regarding

items that should be addressed university-wide across faculties, graduate school programs, and organizations. In addition, the Internal Quality Assurance Committee and the Self-Study Committee) fall short of providing specific support for improvement to address each organization's issues. Efforts should be made to develop a support system for revamping the improvement process based on the self-study results.

University Management

- The University maintains a certain standard for the ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund, but the ratio of next fiscal year's excess of carry-over expenditures to operating income is trending upward. The school corporation's overall balance sheet for operating activities remains negative, and the University's balance sheet has been in the red since fiscal 2021. This situation highlights that the University is far from establishing a solid financial base to sustainably conduct its educational and research activities. To address these issues, the University should carry out the steps presented in the AY2021-AY2025 Action Plan to improve its balance sheet, and make steady efforts to establish a sound financial base.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are low at 0.87 in the Faculty of Liberal Arts, 0.89 in the Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Liberal Arts, and 0.75 in the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Liberal Arts. The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are also low at 0.82 in the Faculty of Liberal Arts, 0.83 in the Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Liberal Arts, and 0.71 in the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Liberal Arts. These ratios must be corrected with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed.