

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

St. Catherine University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Ehime, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for St. Catherine University

Overview

St. Catherine University adopts a philosophy based on “love and truth” in the Catholic faith, and has defined its purpose as developing, on the basis of character education, individuals who can contribute to the welfare of humanity and the development of culture.

The University aims to fulfill its philosophy and objectives through the “Grand Design” and “(University) Medium- and Long-term Management Plan” drawn up by St. Catherine School Corporation in conjunction with the University, as well as the University’s “Annual Faculty Plan.” The Faculty of Human Health and Welfare, based on the educational and research objective of “pursuing human health and welfare,” previously consisted of the Department of Social Work, the Department of Human and Social Studies, and the Department of Health and Sports, but a new Department of Nursing was added in AY2017.

The university-wide internal quality assurance efforts are centered on the University Assessment Committee, which conducts checks and reviews of the “First Semester Annual Faculty Plan” and “Second Semester Annual Faculty Plan” drawn up by each department, committee, and other responsible body, and visualizes and substantiates the PDCA cycle of improvement and enhancement based on the results of these checks and reviews.

Regarding education, the University (“Faculty of Health and Welfare Human Services”) and each of its four departments have established degree award policies (diploma policies) and curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policies) in accordance with the University’s philosophy and objectives. Specifically, university introductory courses and liberal arts courses are positioned as general education courses for students to “acquire basic knowledge, skills, and abilities as a member of society” as stated in the degree award policy, and departmental basic courses, development courses, specialized seminar courses, and related courses are positioned as specialized education courses for students to “acquire values, ethics, knowledge, skills, and abilities in specialized education fields” as stated in the same policy, thus forming a systematic organization.

Taking advantage of its status as a small university, the school provides generous student support, with extensive interviews conducted by faculty advisors,

and both the repeat year and dropout rates are lower than the national average. In addition, a scholarship program has been established in cooperation with the alumni association.

However, there are issues that should be improved. With respect to student enrollment, there are several departments that are not able to meet their capacity. This should be corrected to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.

The JUAA hopes that, in order to improve these issues and further pursue educational and research activities in accordance with its philosophy and objectives, the University will tirelessly to conduct self-study and develop and strengthen its internal quality assurance system, thereby enhancing its effectiveness.

Suggestions for Improvement

University Management and Finance

- For both the university division and the corporation as a whole, the ratio of personnel costs is high, the operational income and expenditure balance ratio is low, and the ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund is low and declining, indicating that the financial base necessary to carry out the University's educational and research activities has not been sufficiently established. From now on, the University should strive to establish a financial base by setting forth and implementing specific measures under the "Third Medium- and Long-Term Financial Plan (2021–2025)."

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are low at 0.88 for the Faculty of Health and Welfare Human Services (the University as a whole), 0.64 for the Department of Social Work, and 0.81 for the Department of Nursing. Meanwhile, the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment are low at 0.84 for the Faculty of Health and Welfare Human Services (the University as a whole), 0.62 for the Department of Social Work, and 0.78 for the Department of Nursing. This should be corrected to ensure proper undergraduate student quota management.