

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

**Seisen Jogakuin College**



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

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Seisen Jogakuin College**

### **Overview**

Seisen Jogakuin College positions the founding principle of “educating the whole person based on the spirit of Christianity (Christian humanism)” as its educational philosophy. The College defines its educational purpose as “nurturing individuals who can contribute to the well-being of society and the advancement of culture through continuous self-development by acquiring highly intellectual and moral discernment and a broad range of education.” To achieve the purpose, the College undertakes educational and research activities based on its five-year medium-term plan. The College has carried out comprehensive reforms to stabilize its educational, research, and financial foundations, including the establishment of new faculties, in line with the Revised Management Enhancement and Improvement Plan (Second Medium-term Plan) starting from AY2015. Following the announcement of the SJN21 Grand Design in 2016, the College has worked to launch the Graduate School of Nursing and to raise the student quotas of the Faculty of Human Studies in the first phase of the Third Medium-term Plan through AY2022. In the second phase starting in AY2023, the plan states that the College will reorganize and upgrade its curricula.

Regarding the College’s internal quality assurance, the Management Plan and Administration Meeting has been established as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, and the Evaluation Committee consisting of members appointed by the president conducts self-study activities. Based on the results, the Academic Management Meeting formulates the college-wide diploma, curriculum, and admissions policies, and reflects them in the College’s medium-term and single academic year action plans. The college-wide PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle is functioning in this process. However, with priorities given to establishing and effectively operating the internal quality assurance system, the system lacks regulations on coordinating the meeting bodies involved in internal quality assurance. In the coming years, the College is expected to take advantage of its size and distinctive features to facilitate communication between faculty and staff, and to review and update the internal quality assurance regulations based on actual conditions to fine-tune the system.

In response to the needs of society and the local community, the College newly established the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, in AY2019 and the

Master's Course of the Graduate School of Nursing in AY2021 to become an institution comprising two faculties, including the Faculty of Human Studies, and one graduate school. Each faculty has adopted a diploma policy specifying the abilities and skills students are expected to acquire and formulated a curriculum policy based on the diploma policy. To monitor student learning outcomes linked to the diploma policies, the Faculty of Human Studies uses graduate surveys and the Faculty of Nursing conducts problem-solving skills tests to confirm the status of students' acquired skills stated in the policies. The Graduate School of Nursing plans to monitor student learning outcomes based on graduate surveys and other methods in the academic year when its first enrolled students complete the course. However, there are several issues the Faculty of Nursing and the Graduate School of Nursing need to address, including the clarification of their policies, as described below.

The College has played a distinctive role as a community-based institution in social cooperation and contribution activities. Under partnership agreements signed with local chambers of commerce and industry and public organizations, the College contributes to the community in various ways, such as working with JA (Japan Agricultural Cooperatives) Nagano to manage a cafeteria where children receive free or low-priced meals served by volunteers, and offering numerous lifelong education courses. The College also makes social contributions linked to educational activities using its departments' expertise and specialized resources. For example, the College provides assistance in organizing and preserving community-owned cultural assets, and produces booklets to promote a better support system for crime victims and others seeking help. These efforts are highly commendable.

There are several issues the College needs to address, however. The Faculty of Nursing's curriculum policy has not specified the basic concept of curriculum implementation. The Master's Course of the Graduate School of Nursing explains its research guidance plan during orientation, but the outline of schedules and methods is insufficient. These issues should be addressed. As for student enrollment, JUAA's previous certified evaluation and accreditation results indicated that the College should address its insufficient quota fulfillment. In response, the College specified the goal of stabilizing student enrollment in the Second Medium-term Plan, promoted student recruitment activities, and reviewed its freshman enrollment quotas. In AY2022, however, the Department of Psychology and Communication, Faculty of Human Studies, significantly exceeded its enrollment cap. This situation should be corrected with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed. Following the decision to raise the freshman enrollment cap in the Faculty

of Human Studies, the College should continue to review and improve the management of student enrollment. Moreover, the College and its school corporation both continue to face the challenge of establishing stable financial bases, and their financial conditions should be analyzed and reviewed to ensure implementation of the financial measures stated in the Third Medium-term Plan.

Despite these issues, the College is striving to efficiently operate the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle by formulating its vision for the future, updating its medium-term plans, and steadily conducting self-study activities. In the years ahead, the College is expected to further enhance its internal quality assurance system as well as its educational and research activities, in light of its first graduate school opened following the establishment of a new educational organization.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- Under the College's partnership agreements with local businesses, organizations and other entities, the Regional Cooperation Center plays a central role in organizing activities to meet community needs in coordination with the cooperation councils of relevant parties. For example, students participate in Okanoueno Restaurant Seisen activities aimed at providing a place for children and support for child-rearing households in cooperation with an agricultural cooperative. The center also provides students with opportunities to contribute to the local community through volunteer activities linked to lessons. It is commendable that the College takes advantage of the strengths of its faculties and departments to address social challenges.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- The Faculty of Nursing has not specified the basic concept of curriculum implementation in its curriculum policy. This issue should be addressed.
- The Master's Course of the Graduate School of Nursing explains its research guidance plan during orientation, but the outline of schedules and methods is

insufficient. This situation should be addressed.

*Student Enrollment*

- In AY2022, the Department of Psychology and Communication, Faculty of Human Studies, had a high average ratio of 1.24 in freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years. This ratio should be lowered with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed.

*Faculty and Faculty Organization*

- The graduate school's own faculty development activities for educational improvements have not been implemented. This issue should be addressed with the Graduate School of Nursing appropriately carrying out its FD activities.

*University Management and Finance*

- The balance sheet ratio for operating activities remains negative for both the College and its school corporation. This situation should be addressed by analyzing and reviewing yearly revenues and expenditures of the newly established Faculty of Nursing, while ensuring the implementation of specific measures to achieve the target of establishing stable financial bases in the Third Medium-term Plan.