

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

Chuogakuin University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Chiba, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2014	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2015 – March.31.2022)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Chuogakuin University

Overview

Chuogakuin University (hereafter, the University) was founded in 1966 as a single-subject college with the Faculty of Commerce. It was originally founded as Nihombashi Night School of Commerce in 1900. Since then, the Faculty of Law and the Graduate School of Commerce were established. Currently, the campus is located in Abiko City, Chiba Prefecture.

While the University is considered to fulfill the standard of university in this accreditation, three policies have diverged from the reality of the University. These are the policy on degree award, the curriculum design policy, and the admission policy. Multiple problems related to each policy are identified below. These problems should be improved.

Although the policy on degree award and the policy for designing and curriculum design policy are defined, these policies have nothing to do with the admission policy. Also, while there is a wide gap between the admission policy and the skills and learning records of admitted students, sufficient education and learning supports are not provided to respond to the needs of these students. This leads to a situation whereby many students are expelled or drop out. Moreover, while it is clear that a problem exists, the systems that perpetuate the problem and situations that result from the problem are not examined in the regular self-study. As a result, concrete improvement plans have not been formulated, and a consistent quality assurance system from admission to graduation has been ineffective. There is a serious problem in the internal quality assurance system. As a higher education institution, it is urgent that a system be established to assure educational quality internally, allowing the university to function fully, respond sincerely to the students who wish to attend the University, and make efforts for improvement.

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- There are several faculty members who do not have research records in last five years, and few have applied to external research funding such as grants-in-aid for scientific research. Overall, research activities are stagnant. This situation should be improved.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The curriculum of the Sports System Course in the Faculty of Law includes four sports related subjects (“Sports for Kids” “Sports Business Administration,” “Top Sports,” and “Life Sports”) as required subjects. However, no credits from Social Sciences Related Subject Group A are required for graduation, and students can earn the credits required for graduation without taking any law related subjects except the required subjects. Considering the policy on degree award that defines the required results of learning and competencies for the completion of the program, this curriculum is poorly balanced. The curriculum should be consistent with the policy on degree award and the curriculum design policy.
- The maximum number of credits students can register in a year (including classes being retaken) in the Faculty of Commerce has been set high at 55 in the first year, and 56 in the second to fourth year. In the Faculty of Law, the maximum number of

credits has been set at 59-60 in the first year, 58 in the second year, 57-58 in the third year, and 59 in the fourth year. These numbers should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.

- Regarding faculty development, while the University offers the opportunity for campus-wide workshops, few faculty members participate in such workshops and the each faculty member does not sufficiently recognize their need. By identifying the theme of each faculty and graduate school, the University should make further effort for improvements.
- The Sports System Course in the Faculty of Law should prepare course offerings appropriate for the degree (Bachelor of Laws), and give sufficient guidance to students.
- Regarding the make-up exams, as stated in the student handbook, the Faculty of Commerce allows fourth year students to take make-up exams in “all subjects the student failed,” and the Faculty of Law allows fourth year students to take them “in principle all the subjects,” without sufficient discussion of the methods of implementation and the educational effects of make-up exams. The make-up exams are not appropriately used in both cases, and the University should reconsider how to implement make-up exams.

Student Support

- While admitting students with diverse backgrounds, the University has not grasped the situation of each student and has not offered appropriate learning support. As a result, many students are expelled or withdraw. It is expected that the University should conduct a comprehensive examination of student admissions, education, and learning support in order to build a necessary support system that is functional.

Education and Research Environment

- A full-time librarian with professional knowledge has not been hired for the library. This should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- While the University has determined mid- and long-term policies to improve its financial situation, it has not formulated mid- and long-term financial plans that include concrete measures. It is urgent to establish the financial base as a corporation. The ratio of the carryover consumption expenditure excess for the next year to the imputed income is increasing at over 200%, and “the rate of capacity utilization of financial assets against the required savings” is on the 30% level. The University should formulate its mid- and long-term financial plans and implement these steadily, and these plans should be reviewed every year.

Area of Serious Concern

Internal Quality Assurance

- While the University has conducted regular self-study, a system to review the results in the University as a whole and to use that feedback for improvement has not been established. Three policies in particular, the policy on degree award, the curriculum design policy, and the admission policy are not consistent with the

actual educational activities, and the system of review based on quality assurance policy does not work properly. The University must promptly establish an internal quality assurance system to address the problems related to the quality of education that have begun to emerge.