

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

Chuo Gakuin University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Chiba, 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 Chuo Gakuin University

Overview

Based on the founding philosophy of Chuo Gakuin University, “cultivating social and moral integrity,” the educational ideal/purpose of the University as a whole is not simply the transmission of knowledge, but to strive for people-centered character development, “aiming to cultivate social and moral integrity through intensive small-class instruction and foster competent members of society with practical skills and creative mind.” To achieve its founding philosophy and purpose, the University has established the medium- to long-term plan, CGU VISION 2030, for the 10-year period from AY2021 to AY2030, in which initiatives to improve education and research are underway with the theme of nurturing individuals who can think and act independently and lead the way into the future in these times of change and diversity.

Regarding internal quality assurance, whereas a system is in place with the Self-assessment Committee as its responsible body, it is hard to say that checks and reviews of educational activity based on the three policies of degree-granting (Diploma Policy), curriculum organizing and implementing (Curriculum Policy), and accepting new students (Admission Policy) are being conducted regularly. Improvements should be made to ensure that the internal quality assurance system functions effectively, with periodic checks and reviews as well as the establishment of a system for the committee to manage and support the undergraduate and graduate divisions.

Concerning education, the curriculum is being designed in line with the policy for granting degrees and the policy for organizing and implementing the curriculum. Curricula for first-year students in all faculties are characterized by small-class, exercise-based instruction for compulsory subjects, with introductory subjects offered in the first year. They are designed so that students can proceed to specialized courses smoothly from the second year on. However, the fact that some undergraduate and graduate divisions do not present their basic concept regarding curriculum implementation in their policy for curriculum organizing and implementing, must be improved moving forward. Regarding initiatives on visualizing learning outcomes, university-wide comprehensive assessment tests have been conducted since AY2020, with results being shared among faculty members through faculty development (referred to below as “FD”) activities of the

undergraduate divisions. Future initiatives can also be anticipated with consideration underway for an assessment policy to be created and ultimately, portfolios being implemented.

Additionally, the Prime Seminar held for new students is a student support that involves not only faculty members but also upper-class students in planning and running the seminar, an initiative that promises the growth of these students. As learning and campus life support, the Student Support Center also systematically provides thorough learning support and guidance for students whose grades are suffering. Moreover, for enthusiastic students, Student Labs have been established for fields including accounting, legal studies, and public administration. Students across all faculties interact in an environment created for them to work hard in obtaining qualifications and making research presentations. Such a multitiered system that supports students systematically and comprehensively throughout their university life, from admission to graduation, can be highly commended.

There are, however, issues that need to be resolved. Regarding university management, there are issues such as the governance structure not being aligned with regulations, the absence of a stipulation regarding revision and repeal in some regulations, as well as the absence of meeting minutes prepared for Executive Management Meetings and Dean Meetings although they are important meeting entities of the organization, which are issues that should be corrected immediately. Furthermore, the University should make improvements in financial affairs, as it appears educational and research activities are not conducted stably and a necessary financial base has not been established.

Moving forward, the JUAA hopes the University reviews the internal quality assurance system, works toward its effective functioning, resolves issues, and accelerates the University's distinctive initiatives for further growth.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- The Prime Seminar that is held immediately following admission for new students, intended to help them become accustomed to university life, is an initiative that involves not only faculty members but also upper-class students, and their growth can be anticipated as they help in planning and running the seminar. As learning and campus life support, the Student Support Center also systematically provides thorough learning support and guidance for students whose grades are suffering, and student labs for enthusiastic students have

been established for fields including accounting, the legal system, and public administration. Students across all faculties interact in an environment created for them to work hard in obtaining qualifications and making research presentations. Additionally, as career support, various seminars and programs are offered, and substantial career education according to the specialized field of the faculty is available. As such, the system which supports students throughout their university life, from admission to graduation, systematically and comprehensively and with a multitiered system, can be highly commended.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- It is hard to say that checks and reviews are being conducted regularly, although an internal quality assurance system is in place with the Self-assessment Committee as its responsible body. The process for making improvements and enhancements based on the results of checks and reviews is unclear as a system, and with the organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance not fully satisfying the roles of management and support for improvements and enhancements, corrections should be made to ensure that the internal quality assurance system functions effectively under the Self-assessment Committee.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The policy for organizing and implementing curriculum for the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Liberal Arts, and the Graduate School of Commerce do not present their basic concept regarding curriculum implementation and should be improved to clearly state such ideas.

University Management and Finance

- The ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund remains inadequate, and it appears educational and research activities are not conducted stably with a necessary financial base. The ratios of the difference between revenue and expenditures from operational activities are headed for improvement. However, as this is due to the decrease in the ratio of expenses for education and research, specific planning and execution of efforts in establishing a financial base are required while keeping in mind the perspective of

maintaining and enhancing the environment for education and research.

Recommendation

University Management and Finance

- The University does not stipulate a policy for university management that is necessary to realize its medium- to long-term plan focusing on its ideals and purpose. The university regulations stipulate the appointment of a vice president; however, such a position has never been filled thus far, creating a discrepancy between the regulations and actual conditions. Also, the authority held by graduate school deans is not comprehensively stipulated. With issues such as the governance structure not being in accordance with regulations, lack of stipulations regarding revision and repeal, and the absence of meeting minutes prepared for Executive Management Meetings and Dean Meetings although they are important meeting entities of the organization, it is hard to say that university management is being carried out appropriately. Corrective measures should be taken to establish a sufficient organizational foundation, manage the University appropriately, conduct periodic checks and reviews, and make improvements and enhancements based on the results.