

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

Tokyo Christian University



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

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Tokyo Christian University

Overview

Tokyo Christian University, founded on the guiding principles of “Evangelical,” “Interdenominational,” “Practical Theological Education,” and “Commitment to Global Missions,” defines its purpose as “Commitment to Christ,” “Christian Worldview,” “Passion for Mission,” “Intercultural and Interpersonal Understanding,” “Nurturing Church Ministers and Lay Leaders,” “Character Education through Small Groups,” and “Communal Theological Education.” To achieve these principles and purpose as well as the objectives set by the faculty and graduate school, the University has laid out the Third Medium-term Plan as a medium- to long-term vision to engage in various activities. The University has also launched the Serving the Kingdom of God Project as a taskforce-based long-term plan drawing up specific schemes to establish a sound financial base. With the project entering its second phase, the University is carrying out projects based on the medium- and long-term plans.

Regarding the University’s internal quality assurance system, the Internal Quality Assurance Policy was established in AY2013, and the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee was formed in AY2019 as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance to effectively operate the system. The policy was revised in AY2022 to upgrade the internal quality assurance system. However, while the committee plays a leading role in internal quality assurance, the authority and roles of the University Administrative Council and the Self-Study Committee have not been clarified. This issue needs to be addressed, including updating the regulations. Moreover, the University has inadequately implemented systematic self-studies of the faculty, graduate school, and other bodies, and its support for improvement measures based on the self-study results is insufficient. As mentioned above, the updated internal quality assurance system has been operating for only a short period of time since the internal quality assurance organization was structured and the system policy and regulations reviewed. In the years ahead, the University should operate its internal quality assurance system more effectively by clarifying the authority and roles of the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee, University Administrative Council, and Self-Study Committee, and by implementing systematic self-studies with feedback

based on the results provided to each organization to support the improvement efforts.

As for education, the faculty and graduate school have appropriately designed their curricula based on the diploma and curriculum policies in light of the University's guiding principles and purpose. The undergraduate program focuses on small-group learning, and has designed TCU's core subjects, including Christian Life Formation, using the "Koinonia" student life support program to enhance student learning and promote the University's pursuit of holistic education. The University has introduced external assessment tests and other means to measure the student learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy, but data on the measurement results have yet to be gathered for educational improvements. The University is expected to continue these approaches and use the findings to improve its teaching and learning management.

The University has undertaken an outstanding initiative in small-group boarding school education based on its guiding principles under the student support system. The Koinonia program that organizes chapel activities in small groups is a particularly commendable initiative that contributes to character development with a sense of community fostered among students, faculty, and staff. It is also notable that the University's three affiliated institutions are actively engaged in a variety of community-based social cooperation and contribution activities on the basis of the "Glocal Theology" concept of envisioning a university deeply committed to the community and open to the world. For example, the Kyoritsu Christian Institute has organized support activities, research projects, and symposiums related to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The University is expected to produce more positive outcomes by further promoting its distinctive initiatives university-wide through activities led by its social cooperation promotion organizations based on the Glocal Theology concept.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. First, the University faces the pressing issue of its financial base, and should work to draw up a financial plan based on actual conditions and steadily implement measures to build a solid financial foundation. In relation to this matter, to deal with the challenge of fulfilling its student enrollment quota, the University integrated the existing departments to newly establish the Theological Studies Department in AY2021, but fell short of fulfilling the student quota in the first academic year of its opening. Efforts should be made to step up student recruitment activities and appropriately manage the student quota by the time when the first enrolled students in the new

department graduate. Moreover, the internal quality assurance system should be structured properly by reexamining the classification of each organization's functions and ensuring consistency with the quality assurance policy and regulations. Meanwhile, there are several other issues that need to be reviewed. The graduate school has not made its grade evaluation and grade criteria to the public. In terms of school management, the University has not taken sufficient steps to update its budget regulations, nor to enhance the skills and abilities required of faculty and staff members. The University should improve the system to plan and implement staff development (SD) activities for its faculty and staff.

In the coming years, the University is expected to progress further by improving its internal quality assurance system, and effectively promoting improvement and enhancement efforts with the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle organically connecting the three layers of the faculty and graduate school, the University as a whole, and faculty and staff members.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- The Koinonia small-group activities are organized during the weekly chapel service. Supervisors assigned to each group encourage interactions to build a sense of community among students, with views exchanged on Bible verses and reports given on recent activities. The TCU Portfolio was introduced in AY2021 to provide feedback from full-time faculty members and other support efforts in cooperation with school divisions as needed during the Koinonia sessions. This student support initiative using the University's distinctive features is commendable as the faculty and staff are expected to provide students with specifically designed academic and campus-life assistance, and contribute to holistic Christian education that integrates faith, learning, and life.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University promotes Glocal Theology as a practical theological concept of social cooperation to serve the local community from a global perspective, and engages in social cooperation and contribution activities with a primary focus on collaboration and partnership with regional communities. For example, the University holds Christianity and Welfare Research Group sessions at the

Kyoritsu Christian Institute, and continues its analysis of data on missions as well as studies on missions in Japan. Moreover, student volunteers participate in the activities of an organization that provides a place for local children who have stopped attending school. It is commendable that these activities are expected to contribute to overcoming regional challenges.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Internal Quality Assurance Policy stipulates that the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee deliberates on improvement measures based on the results of self-studies and other reports. In fact, the Self-Study Committee presents the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee with improvement proposals, indicating that the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee is not fulfilling its role as a new body promoting internal quality assurance in accordance with the policy. In addition, the overlapping roles of the decision-making the University Administrative Council and the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee in charge of promoting and overseeing internal quality assurance have resulted in the inadequate classification of the organizations' functions. This issue should be addressed by clarifying the improvement process based on the divisions' inspections and assessments, and by reviewing policies, regulations, and other rulemaking documents to properly organize the relevant meeting bodies.

Recommendation

University Management and Finance

- The balance sheet ratio for operating activities of both the University as a corporation and the school division remains remarkably low, and the ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund is showing a downward trend, falling to a low level in recent years, while the ratio of next fiscal year's excess of carry-over expenditures to operating income is trending upward. This situation indicates that the University is far from establishing a solid financial base to sustainably conduct its educational and research activities. There are also

discrepancies arising between the University's financial plan and the actual conditions. These issues must be addressed with a plan drawn up based on the present financial status and measures steadily implemented to establish a sound financial base.