

**Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for
Professional Graduate Business School**

Business Studies, The Graduate School of Business,
Doshisha University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2018	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2024)	

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Business Studies (hereafter, BS) of the Graduate School of Business, Doshisha University specifies its educational objective in its Admission Policy as “fostering next-generation businesspeople who can respond appropriately to an ever-changing economy and society and promote the sustainable development of businesses and institutions through tradition-based constant innovation from a global perspective based on its founding spirit of “education of conscience” and research openly available to businesses and society.” In line with this objective, BS clearly defines its vision, medium-term plan and action plan with the two pillars of “cultivating executives and successors of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enhance corporate values as a business school in Kyoto” and “revitalizing the local economy by stimulating innovation that creates new value.” Aspiring to be a professional business school rooted in Kyoto, where a number of globally competitive businesses are located, BS has developed its vision, medium-term plan, and action plan for developing people of talent who can take charge of SMEs that contribute to regional communities and economies. BS has continued its efforts to improve its curriculum and teaching methods in accordance with these plans as well as establish scholarships.

In April 2014, two courses of the Graduate School of Business, Doshisha University were expanded and divided into two independent entities with their own unique features: BS, a Japanese-language professional graduate business school program offering classes on weeknights and Saturdays, and Global Business and Management Studies, an English-language regular graduate school program offering classes during the daytime on weekdays. BS has developed a curriculum policy to pursue its educational objectives and achieve goals stated in its diploma policy, and offers a wealth of subjects belonging to the “General Subjects A and B” group and the “Specialized Subjects” group. These subjects are designed for students to acquire both expertise in their fields and analytical skills required to solve problems.

A variety of subjects are available for each of the six special areas. In particular, BS offers diverse subjects in the “SME and Regional Management Field “ that allow students to learn about traditional industries relevant to the regional economies of Kyoto and Osaka and about SMEs with a venture spirit, focusing on education to foster SME leaders and their successors in the region. In the “Innovation Field”, BS provides education to cultivate people who can leverage professional technologies developed and owned by manufacturing companies in Kyoto and its neighboring areas to promote innovation that creates new value. It is a distinctive curriculum that only a graduate school headquartered in Kyoto can provide. BS also offers education to teach practical abilities to devise plans for corporate activities and business structure by inviting corporate executives and other businesspeople to speak in class for some subjects. In these ways, students’ practical abilities are nurtured to develop measures to revitalize local industries. In many cases, class proposals made by students are applied to actual corporate activities, which shows that BS is contributing through its significant educational achievements.

As one of the characteristics of its educational method, BS has introduced the “Senior Assistant System” that invites past graduates to participate in class to give objective advice to students. The aim is not only to provide graduates with an opportunity to study anew but also to improve the quality of education. By participating in “Project Research” seminars through this system, the graduates share their expertise with students based on their study experiences and impart the latest business-related information. This unique system enhances the educational program. Moreover, BS has made arrangements to make it easier for those working fulltime to enroll. Specifically, it

has adopted a quarter system that allows students to take two consecutive class sessions at a time and earn two credits in eight weeks for each subject. It also offers the same courses on the Imadegawa Campus and the satellite site in Umeda.

While BS is making creative efforts as described above, there remains some issues the school needs to address.

In terms of its educational program, methods and achievements, BS needs to review the content of each subject as well as class size and class schedules. In particular, it is expected that BS will consider and clarify its plans and educational methods to pursue the university's founding spirit of "education of conscience" and realize a degree of internationalization as is a professional graduate school. On the basis of these considerations, BS is expected to track the career and employment situation of graduates to assess the effectiveness of its educational program in fulfilling its objective, and utilize this information to improve its program. Ten issues, including Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA)'s suggestions for improvement, need to be addressed to improve the quality of education and create a better educational system as a professional graduate school. JUAA strongly expects BS to rectify these issues.

In terms of administration, the office of the BS program closes at 19:00 even though classes are offered from 18:30 until 21:30 in the evening. It is particularly desirable that this issue be addressed in view of student convenience and safety.

JUAA strongly expects that, taking these evaluation and accreditation results into consideration, BS will continue its self-study and evaluations and work on reforms and improvements to strengthen its unique characteristics for further development and enhancement of its program.