

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for
Law School**

Doshisha University Law School



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2023	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Doshisha University Law School

Aiming to “devote itself to fostering profound knowledge and outstanding abilities as legal professionals,” Doshisha University Law School (hereafter “Law School”) has established its educational philosophy, goals, and guidelines for developing human resources as the cultivation of legal professionals responsive to the social needs of 21st century society under the three principles of “conscience education,” “nurturing global perspectives,” and “developing a high level of expertise.” These principles conform with the purposes of the law school system.

To fulfill its educational philosophy, the Law School has taken the following distinctive initiatives regarding the curriculum.

First, the Law School offers courses, including–Foreign Law Practicum and Special Seminar on Foreign, to provide students with opportunities to directly interact with overseas practitioners and researchers in order to fulfill its principle of “nurturing global perspectives.” With respect to the Foreign Law Field Training course, the Law School has offered a virtual training program since AY2020 because it was unable to dispatch students overseas. In the virtual program, students watch the recordings of interviews with foreign (European) lawyers, judges, and Supreme Court investigators, after which they interact with representatives of the German Embassy and the Delegation of the European Commission in Japan. This program is highly commendable as a new method utilizing the online platform to provide education. The Law School has also introduced a credit transfer system for Foreign Law Special Seminar credits to be recognized by affiliated American law schools. This is an excellent initiative for the purpose of encouraging students to study abroad.

Based on the memorandum of understanding for credit transfer concluded with the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, the two universities offer several courses for which the credits are mutually recognized. For this purpose, the two institutions hold Joint FD Council meetings to examine and exchange views on the compatibility and adequacy of their curricula from expert viewpoints. Additionally, the universities hear opinions from students who have taken credit transfer courses to find any problems in taking the courses and any issues arising when comparing the classes offered at the two schools. These efforts to review the curriculum and to develop and implement the credit transfer program in cooperation with the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, are commendable as distinctive features of the Law School’s curriculum design.

Furthermore, the Law School implements faculty development (FD) activities related to curriculum review and the development and implementation of the credit transfer program in collaboration with the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, and examines the course contents, as shown by the establishment of subject-specific subcommittees for the seven basic law courses. It is commendable that these activities have made remarkable contributions to improving the curriculum.

There are several areas of improvement, however, identified in the certified evaluation and accreditation.

First, the results of the Common Achievement Test for Law Schools are not included in the factors for determining student advancement to the next level, but the number of earned credits and the grade point average (GPA) are included. The results of the Common Achievement Test have an indirect impact on student advancement in the way they are reflected in grading for fall semester courses for which the results can be incorporated in evaluations, but do not have any direct or indirect impact on student advancement for spring semester courses. The Law School is advised to consider whether this system is appropriate as a measure restricting the advancement of students who perform poorly in the Common Achievement Tests.

Second, with respect to faculty organization, more than 80% of the full-time faculty members are aged 50 or older, and the ratio of female faculty to full-time faculty members remains low, although the number of female faculty members has increased to three out of 24 with the hiring of one faculty member as of April 1, 2023. Improvements are required to promote a more diverse faculty organization. In addition, although the Law School retains four practitioner faculty members, the ratio of practitioners to full-time faculty members is below 20%, which should be improved as well.

The Law School has taken some innovative measures to devise a curriculum to fulfill its educational philosophy and made efforts to improve its educational programs by actively introducing a credit transfer system with other law schools and engaging in FD activities. It has also examined the educational outcomes in an appropriate way. As mentioned above, however, there are several issues the Law School should address, and the Law School should continue its efforts for improvement and further enhance its distinctive features.