

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

Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Nagasaki, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2024	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2032)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University

Overview

Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University sets forth the school motto of “Walk the path of wisdom and serve people and the world,” and defines its educational philosophy as “fostering talented individuals who can contribute to the community and the world, to the peace of humanity, and the development of culture and welfare.” As a school founded on the spirit of Catholicism in Nagasaki, the University plays a regional role in undertaking educational and research activities related to the histories of the introduction and acceptance of Christianity as well as the atomic bombing and the subsequent peace movement. The University formulated the Fourth Medium-Term Goals and Plan for the five-year period from AY2022 to AY2026 to envision its future in light of its founding spirit, educational philosophy, and the purposes of the undergraduate and graduate schools, and engages in educational and research activities with the aim of progressing with the support of local communities and society.

Regarding education, each department and graduate school course has established the three diploma, curriculum, and admission policies, and provides qualification-based education that meets student needs and career paths by offering students the opportunity to acquire multiple qualifications through the curricula. To realize its educational philosophy, the University offers lessons linked to the region and Christianity, such as Nagasaki Studies and Nagasaki and Kirishitan (Japanese Christians) Culture, as well as lessons including Nagasaki Regional Studies and Regional Development designed to explore problem-solving through an understanding of the region. To prepare for lessons and practical training, students use valued documents on Nagasaki’s history and characteristics that are systematically arranged and stored at the campus’s Hayasaka Memorial Library, which houses the Catholic Book Collection and the Children’s Book Collection, and at the Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University Museum, open to the public, housing the Kirishitan Book Collection and the Isomura Peace Book Collection. It is highly commendable that these facilities play important roles in encouraging students’ self-directed learning and research, promoting communication, and enhancing faculty members’ teaching, research, and social contribution skills.

As for internal quality assurance, the Education and Research Management Committee is positioned as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality

assurance, along with the five subordinate organizations of the IR Committee, Mid-Term Goal and Plan Review Committee, Inspection and Assessment Management Committee, FD Management Committee, and SD Committee. The organizations of the departments and other programs conduct self-studies in the key domains determined annually, and play a central role in undertaking improvement activities based on the results. However, the Education and Research Management Committee provides inadequate feedback for improvement based on the university-wide inspection and assessment results. The University needs to organically operate the internal quality assurance system by clarifying the roles of the organizations of the departments and other programs, committees, and the Education and Research Management Committee involved in internal quality assurance, as well as the improvement process based on the inspection and assessment results. The meeting bodies inevitably composed of overlapping members allow faculty and staff members to share information through daily activities, but efforts are required to reorganize the meeting bodies involved in internal quality assurance based on actual conditions, and to develop a university-wide feedback system for each organization to work on improvement activities with the main promotion body's support.

There are other areas of improvement the University needs to address, among which is credit validity. This issue was also pointed out in JUAA's previous certified evaluation and accreditation results. The University specifies the maximum number of credits students can register for in a year, but permits credit overload for qualification-related courses as special cases, resulting in a certain number of students who seek to obtain multiple qualifications registering for a high number of credits. Inadequate measures are adopted to ensure credit validity through such means as guidance for these students to secure sufficient study time. This situation should be improved. Moreover, the Post-graduate Course in Humanistic Studies should specify its basic concept in the cuticulum policy, while the doctoral program in the same course should thoroughly manage its student quota.

The University is actively carrying out structural reforms, such as converting to a co-educational institution and reorganizing its faculty and departments, in response to local needs, and the president, vice president, faculty, and staff are working together through various approaches to realize education in coordination with local communities. In the years ahead, the University is expected to explore new ways to carry out social cooperation activities suspended since the COVID-19 pandemic, and to deal with the items pointed out as issues to address. The University is also expected to improve the university-wide internal quality assurance system to maintain and enhance its uniqueness as a university serving local communities.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Environment

- To realize educational and research activities based on its founding spirit, the University has established four collections of books: the Catholic Book Collection focusing on the history of Catholic churches in Japan and the Children's Book Collection that includes picture and children's books and studies on the genre, housed at the Hayasaka Memorial Library; and the Kirishitan Book Collection featuring historical resources related to Christians in Japan and the Isomura Peace Book Collection comprised of document materials on the atomic bombings in Nagasaki and Hiroshima and later peace activities, found at the Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University Museum. These valued resources, books, and other documents are used for lessons on early childhood education and regional studies as well as preparation for practical training. The active use of the library and museum for lessons contributes to a deeper understanding of the region and recognition of the University's role in local communities. It is commendable that these facilities play important roles in encouraging students' self-directed learning and research, promoting communication, and enhancing faculty members' teaching, research, and social contribution skills.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Education and Research Management Committee, positioned as a main organization promoting internal quality assurance, is tasked with providing university-wide feedback based on the inspection and assessment results, but its feedback for improvement is inadequate as the faculty, graduate school, and other organizations conduct self-studies and review their own activities. Improvements should be made to effectively operate the internal quality assurance system by specifying the internal quality assurance policy that clarifies the roles of the committee and the meeting bodies of the organizations involved in internal quality assurance, as well as the improvement process based on the university-wide inspection and assessment results.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The basic concept of curriculum implementation is not stated in the curriculum policies of the master's and doctoral programs in the Post-graduate Course in Humanistic Studies. This issue should be addressed.
- The Faculty of Humanities specifies the maximum number of credits students can register for in a year to ensure credit validity, but with qualification courses excluded as exceptions, a number of students seeking to obtain multiple qualifications register for credits exceeding the upper limit in the three departments. No specific support is provided for these students to ensure credit validity. Efforts should be made to provide appropriate assistance after monitoring and reviewing the students' credit status to secure sufficient study time in light of the purpose of the credit system.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.22 in the doctoral programs in the Post-graduate Course in Humanistic Studies. This ratio should be improved with the graduate school's student quota thoroughly managed.