

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

**Nanzan School of Law
Graduate Program in Legal Practice**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Aichi, 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 Nanzan School of Law Graduate Program in Legal Practice

To fulfill Nanzan University's educational philosophy of "For Human Dignity" in providing education to nurture legal professionals, Nanzan School of Law Graduate Program in Legal Practice (hereafter "Law School") has set forth its philosophy of cultivating legal professionals who can contribute to society with a sense of ethics based on human dignity, and its goal of providing education that bridges the gap between theory and practice. This is in line with the educational philosophy of law schools. However, the Law School was denied accreditation in the AY2018 JAAA certified evaluation and accreditation for law school, the main reasons being: (1) Despite the Law School's pass rate of the national bar examination falling below one-half the national average for multiple years, no effective and specific measures for improvement had been implemented; and (2) Regarding the number of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap, the Law School never enrolled 10 freshman students in the preceding five years although its admission capacity was 20. Accordingly, in this year's certified evaluation and accreditation for law school, the Law School's educational activities were evaluated as a whole to look for improvements made with respect to the issues pointed out in the last evaluation and the measures taken toward improvement. As described below, the conclusion was reached that, although some issues remain to be addressed, significant improvements are being made. Regarding item (1), the bar exam pass rate has been rising over the years, up to the 10% level in AY2018 and reaching approximately 33% in AY2022. The pass rate is particularly high for students with no previous legal studies experience. In addition, a high correlation between the bar exam pass rate and the grade point average (GPA) at the Law School was found. Given these facts, the rising bar exam pass rate represents the positive outcomes of the Law School's educational activities. In particular, full-time faculty members have provided thorough small-group instructions focusing on the development of "writing skills" during this period, while the advisor system for correcting answers in mock bar exams has functioned effectively as a complement to small-group instructions. In these ways, full-time faculty members and advisors have worked cooperatively with each other. In light of these initiatives, it is commendable that the Law School has made ongoing organization-wide efforts to improve the bar examination pass rate. In addition, intensive FD training sessions were held from November to December 2020, where participants made presentations and exchanged opinions on themes such as class management improvement and step-by-step

development of writing skills, and a meeting is held twice a year for faculty members in charge to exchange opinions on grading. Furthermore, the faculty council examines the educational outcomes of the Law School. These activities are commendable. Next, regarding item (2), the numbers of applicants and freshman enrollment have been trending upward for the past several years. In addition, with collaboration with the University's Faculty of Law, the Special Course for Judicial Training was established in the Faculty in 2019, and students who complete this course advance to the Law School. This is an emerging virtuous cycle and a positive development for school quota fulfillment in the future.

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

First, some course syllabuses state that the regular examination is the only factor to be considered for grading. During the on-site inspection, however, it was confirmed that process is also considered for grading. The Law School should modify the description in the syllabuses in accordance with the actual situation.

Second, going forward the Law School should immediately consider how to utilize the scores of the Common Achievement Test for Law Schools, including using the scores for grading (a requirement for student advancement to the next level).

As the third area of improvement, the establishment of an appeal system for grading is an issue to be considered.

The fourth area of improvement concerns FD activities. It is commendable that opportunities for intensive review of the educational activities and for grading verification are provided, but recently, these activities have not been carried out on a regular basis, and how to operate these systems in the future will be an issue open to discussion. The Law School should continue to analyze the results of the national bar examination to enhance its FD activities.

The fifth area of improvement concerns enrollment. Although an improvement trend has been identified in securing enrollment, as mentioned above, the Law School is expected to continue its efforts to enhance the ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap, student enrollment to the student enrollment cap, and the number of applicants to the freshman cap, while working to exceed the standards for these ratios. It is recognized that the establishment of the Special Course for Judicial Training has generated this upward trend, but further measures are expected, including the conclusion of a joint legal profession training agreement with Nanzan University's Faculty of Law and cooperation with its neighboring universities.

Sixth, the Law School is expected to make efforts to obtain information on the

career paths of its alumni, especially those who have chosen a career other than the legal profession.

As each of the above issues should be addressed to implement the Law School's distinctive small-group, student-focused education, the Law School is expected to continue to examine these issues.