

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

Mukogawa Women's University



| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Hyogo, 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 Mukogawa Women's University

Overview

Mukogawa Women's University, founded on the Educational ideals of "nurturing women to develop a combination of high intelligence, noble sentiments, and lofty virtues, and to become constructive members of a peaceful nation and society," defines the undergraduate schools' purpose as "fostering women with a broad range of knowledge; conducting in-depth specialized academic teaching and research; developing in Japanese women a combination of high intelligence, noble sentiment, and lofty virtues; and contributing to the development of a global culture of peace." The graduate schools set forth the purpose of "teaching and researching academic theory and practice; cultivating the skills necessary for professions requiring a high level of expertise; and contributing to the development of society and culture." In 2019, the University formulated MUKOJO Principles 2019 -> 2039 corresponding to the long-term MUKOJO Vision 2019 -> 2039 to lay out the direction of the University's overall educational and research activities. The plan envisions a university supporting the life design of each woman, and outlines the four goals of enhancing the quality of education and exploring its distinctive features; pursuing the advancement and diversification of research; contributing to the development of the community and society; and improving the education and research environment while establishing a solid management base.

In AY2020, the University established an internal quality assurance system consisting of the Academic Management Committee, Mukogawa Women's University Educational Reform Promotion Committee, Mukogawa Women's University Self-Evaluation Committee, and Mukogawa Women's University Graduate School Self-Evaluation Committee to launch university-wide operation of the system. The University has just begun to gather and deliberate on the self-study results from the faculties, graduate schools, and other divisions, with improvement and enhancement measures based on the results expected to be adopted through ongoing efforts.

In terms of education, all faculties and graduate schools have appropriately designed their curricula based on the diploma and curriculum polices. The learning guidelines are clarified using curriculum maps and course charts to visualize a list of subjects with purposes and goals as well as approaches to the learning outcomes

stated in the diploma policies. In addition, the maximum number of credits allowed in a year is specified to ensure credit validity. Based on credit status and other factors, supervisors regularly provide specific course guidance for students under their charge to study without an excessive burden, even if their credits exceed the cap.

The University has undertaken a distinctive initiative in faculty development (FD). As part of its FD activities, the University has created a new faculty training program that combines lectures and active learning. It is highly commendable that the program provides new faculty members with knowledge and other information as university instructors regardless of their expertise, background, and age, while developing a sense of community among faculty members. In addition, the University has organized various social cooperation and contribution activities aimed at achieving the key goals of the medium-term plan. The Mukojo Station Campus established in AY2019 features a café and exhibit space for student artworks, and hosts events including student performances. It is notable that the facility is contributing to the revitalization of the local community.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. Some graduate schools, faculties, and departments have low ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap, and the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years is low in some faculties and departments. These ratios should be improved with student quotas thoroughly managed. The graduate schools should also ensure the systematic and sustainable implementation of their own FD activities for educational improvements.

In the coming years, the University is expected to progress further by resolving these issues through internal quality assurance efforts and by enhancing its numerous distinctive initiatives.

Notable Strengths

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The University has created a new faculty training program for FD activities. The program is designed for new faculty members to systematically learn about higher education trends, curricula and lesson design, teaching methods, and evaluations as well as share their views with other participants. The training sessions also use both lectures and active learning formats. In the AY2022 session, the participants presented specific proposals for university education

reform and lesson improvements. It is commendable that the program carries out group work for new faculty members regardless of their specialized fields of study, background, and age to provide the knowledge required of university instructors and to help develop a sense of community among faculty members.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Community Liaison Division for Education and Research plays a central role in cooperating with local municipalities and businesses in implementing a wide range of activities. For example, the Mukojo Station Campus was established to revitalize the Naruo area, and the School of Business Administration offers practical learning subjects for students to participate in community outreach activities. Moreover, to make further progress with its community contributions, the University has newly opened the Nishinomiya Kitaguchi Campus to help working adults advance their careers through recurrent education programs. These initiatives are undertaken to achieve the University's key medium-term goals of "returning academic and research outcomes to society" and "strengthening practical education and industry-government-academia joint research aimed at resolving social issues." It is commendable that the University's efforts are contributing to overcoming regional challenges.

University Management and Finance

- The University is creating an environment for its faculty and staff members to openly make proposals on the University's development, as it calls for educational improvement and reform plans based on given themes, and supports the implementation of selected proposals. The University promotes improvement and reform efforts in collaboration with faculty and staff based on their proposals. It is commendable that these approaches have led to the creation of the University's distinctive initiatives, such as the introduction of a new faculty training program.

Suggestions for Improvement

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.38 in the Master's Program of the Graduate School of Letters, 0.25 in the Master's Program of the Graduate School of Health and Sports Sciences, 0.33 in the Master's Program of the Graduate School of Human Environmental Sciences, 0.25 in the Master's Program of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and 0.17 in the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Architecture. These ratios should be improved with the graduate schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The graduate schools have not conducted their own FD activities for educational improvements in a systematic and sustainable way. This issue should be addressed with FD activities appropriately implemented for each graduate school or program.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are low at 0.87 in the School of Music, 0.73 in the Department of Performing Arts, School of Music, 0.88 in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and 0.87 in the Department of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are also low at 0.82 in the School of Music, 0.63 in the Department of Performing Arts, School of Music, 0.89 in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and 0.88 in the Department of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. These ratios must be improved with the schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.