

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

Kagawa University Graduate School of Management



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: National	Location: Kagawa, 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 the Graduate School of Management, Kagawa University

The purposes of the Graduate School of Management, Kagawa University, or GSM, are to “develop knowledge and skills related to management and regional policies, and high ethical standards and a global perspective through education and research that promote regional development,” as well as “train highly aspiring public or private sector professionals who will carve out a new era of regional development by supporting and managing regional economies in leadership positions.” To achieve these goals, GSM has defined a commendable medium- to long-term vision, stating that it “aspires to become a business school that plays a positive role in regional development by linking regional communities and the global society in a mutually sustainable manner, and by providing education and research that integrate knowledge of theory and knowledge of practice.” One example where this vision and strategies are translated into concrete action is the co-hosting of the Kagawa Business and Public Competition, a contest that invites the submission of business plan proposals for revitalizing Kagawa Prefecture and awards prizes to help commercialize the winning entries. This is a commendable undertaking through which GSM supports students in bringing their project research ideas to life. The Graduate School aims to train three types of professionals: (a) Business leaders who lead creative innovations in companies and contribute to regional development while maintaining a global perspective; (b) Public professionals who bring new strategies and vitality to the public sector; and (c) Regional producers who work with community residents to promote regional development that embraces the local character. The unique aspect of GSM’s education is the equal emphasis placed on training people specifically to work in regional government (public professionals) and regional development (regional producers) and developing business leaders in general. It is commendable that the curriculum is designed in line with the educational goals, with courses focusing on public policies and regional development, in addition to courses imparting specialized knowledge in corporate and organizational management. Also notable are courses such as Economic Affairs of Shikoku Part 1-3 and Local SMEs and Economic Development, which the Graduate School offers in collaboration with local agencies of the national government, local governments, and industry support groups, and invites business owners and local government leaders involved in business and regional development as guest lecturers.

The Graduate School has several other commendable features. From the time students enter the Graduate School until completing their studies, each student is teamed up with multiple teachers who serve as mentors to discuss their research and academic concerns. This system ensures that students are given instruction and advice that meet their individual

interests and objectives. Furthermore, GSM offers such programs as Career Workshops designed to support students' career development, the Recurrent Program organized to help create a network among teachers, staff, and students, and strong student support programs, including the post-MBA program, that help students bring their research projects to life. Also worth noting are the mandatory monthly faculty development sessions held to help full-time teachers improve the teaching contents and teaching methods as well as the fact that GSM's faculty, including practitioner teachers, has maintained a high success rate of 70% for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research.

There are several areas of improvement GSM should address, however.

First, there is no uniform understanding among faculty members as to the meaning of "global perspective" expressed in the degree award policy. The Graduate School needs to clarify the meaning of this term to ensure a common understanding across the faculty. Furthermore, the degree to which the content related to a global perspective is included varies from course to course. This situation needs to be addressed to ensure broader and deeper learning for students.

Second, while the multiple-mentor approach mentioned above has many advantages, there are disadvantages as well. Some students, for example, were observed struggling to deal with the conflicting opinions of different instructors. There are currently no sufficient processes in place to mitigate potential problems and this situation needs to be addressed.

Third, the faculty is not sufficiently diverse, with only a small number of international and female teachers on the teaching staff. The previous AY2018 certified evaluation and accreditation for professional graduate business schools recommended that the ratio of international faculty members to Japanese faculty members be increased and that the administrative bureau have greater independence, yet no improvements have been observed. The Graduate School is expected to respond appropriately to the issues for improvement identified by outside inspectors. Improvement is also needed in the membership composition of the Collaboration Council for Educational Program, a majority of which are members of the university community.

To address the issues raised above, the Graduate School is advised to utilize the results of the certified evaluation and accreditation for professional graduate business schools and continue its self-study efforts for improvement. Going forward, GSM is expected to assure and enhance the quality of its education program and to further develop its unique characteristics.