

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

Aichi Gakuin University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Aichi, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2028)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Aichi Gakuin University

Overview

Aichi Gakuin University holds to founding principles of “unity of learning and practice” and “a sense of gratitude toward all life in the world”, taking these as a basis for providing humanistic education. The University’s purpose is “to strive for academic independence, the pursuit of truth and the application of academic principles, to teach and research highly specialized arts and sciences, and to promote their widespread adoption”. In order to fulfil the founding principles and purpose of the University, the “Aichi Gakuin Educational Corporation Medium- Long-Term Plan” was used as a basis to develop the “Aichi Gakuin University Medium- Long-Term Plan,” and efforts are being made to enhance its education and research activities.

In terms of internal quality assurance, the PDCA cycle functions at three levels: the university-wide level, the organizational level, and the constituent level. A system has been set up in which the “Aichi Gakuin University Self-Assessment Committee” (referred to below as the “All-University Check and Review Committee”) and the “University Academic Reform Committee”, the organizations conducting internal quality assurance, bear responsibility for implementing these cycles. However, the division of roles between the “All-University Check and Review Committee” and the “University Academic Reform Committee,” and the authority of the President to oversee both committees are unclear. Issues like this suggest that the independent management system to improve existing education and research by systematically ascertaining various projects relating to university education and research, aggregating and analyzing the results of checks and reviews, and providing feedback to the organization and constituent levels is not necessarily functioning as it should. As such, improvements to this are required.

Regarding education, all faculties and graduate schools are working diligently to design curricula based on the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy), but there remains room for improvement. Accordingly, the University is working on revising the Curriculum Policy and fleshing out the assessment plan, including measures such as a rubric for graduation theses. These initiatives have only just begun, and whether or not these PDCA cycles will function effectively depends on future efforts. Again regarding education, further improvements are also needed in terms of substantiating academic credits, such as guidance for students

who in practice register for a large number of credits in a single year, and University-wide efforts to remedy the fact that there are many students who spend little time studying outside of class hours.

The University, as a core private comprehensive university in the Chubu region, has also demonstrated commendable achievements in terms of outstanding educational and research efforts. As well as various partnerships with the local community, it has been active for some time in promoting activities that contribute to society, such as the “Aichi Gakuin University Open Lecture Series.” Moreover, in accordance with its founding principles, the University is actively conducting a variety of internal and external activities that put its mission and purpose into practice. These can be said to fully embody its principles of humanistic education.

However, there are a number of issues that require improvement. Measures such as ensuring internal quality assurance and the substance of credits in the curriculum have already been pointed out, but improvements are also required with respect to the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap, which are high at some faculties and low at some graduate schools, respectively. In addition, although efforts are being made to reform education and implement an internal quality assurance system, there are some departments, especially the “University Educational Reform Planning Office,” which despite being important internal organizations have been working ahead of schedule without revising their various regulations. From the perspective of university governance, the fact that the development of regulations has not kept up with the reorganization of the University is an issue in need of urgent resolution and improvement. Care must be taken to ensure that the rush to implement reforms does not lead to shortcomings in proper university management and compromise genuine educational and research activities.

It is to be commended that the excellent initiatives implemented by each constituent body, faculty, graduate school, and department have led to the University's achievements and social reputation to date. Going forward, however, it is vital that the University as a whole identifies these accurately and systematically, visualizes the results in a way that is easy for students and the general public to understand, and ensure that the results of checks and reviews are provided as feedback to be fed back to each constituent body, faculty, graduate school, and department as suggestions for further improvement. To this end, the University must conduct its education and research activities in a more autonomous and proactive manner by engaging in substantial development of internal quality assurance systems. It is hoped that said development and consistent effort will allow the University to make further progress.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although there is a system for making improvements based on the results of checks and reviews under two internal quality assurance promotion organizations, the “All-University Check and Review Committee” and the “University Academic Reform Committee,” the activities of both these organizations are limited to responding to university accreditations, such as by preparing “Check and Review Reports,” and the feedback for making improvements provided to departments is insufficient. Going forward, improvements are required to establish a system to autonomously provide support for improvements to departments, enabling them to guarantee the quality of education and other activities themselves.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- Although the Faculty of Psychological and Physical Science’s Health Science Department has a fixed upper limit to the number of credits that students can register for in a single year, students can register for courses regardless of the maximum limit if permission is given by their head of faculty and approved by the Head of Academic Affairs. A significant number of students, especially in the first and second years, actually register for many credits beyond the maximum limit. Moreover, in the Schools of Pharmacy and Dentistry, there is no upper limit to the number of credits that students can register for in a single year, and a significant number of students actually register for large numbers of credits, especially in their first years of study. Although the syllabi are required to specify learning outside of class hours, there are some that do not actually include this information, and the measures taken to substantiate credits have not been sufficient. As such, improvements must be made to comply with the purpose of the credit system.
- Although the Graduate School of Letters’ Doctoral Course of Buddhist and Religious Studies and Doctoral Course of History have established a thesis rubric as a method of measuring learning outcomes as specified in the degree award policy, the specific format and operation schedule are still under consideration, so improvements are required.

Student Enrollment

- In AY 2020, the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap at the School of Dentistry's Department of Dentistry was high at 1.04, so improvements should be made to the faculty's quota management.
- In AY 2019, the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap was 0.20 for the Graduate School of Letters (Master's Program), 0.09 for the Graduate School of Letters (Doctoral Program), 0.25 for the Graduate School of Psychological and Physical Science (Doctoral Program), 0.29 for the Graduate School of Economics (Master's Program), 0.13 for the Graduate School of Business and Commerce (Doctoral Program), 0.07 for the Graduate School of Management (Doctoral Program), 0.47 for the Graduate School of Law (Master's Program), 0.17 for the Graduate School of Law (Doctoral Program), 0.33 for the Graduate School of Policy Studies (Master's Program), and 0.00 for the Graduate School of Policy Studies (Doctoral Program). These figures are low, and improvements are required in order to ensure proper management of graduate school student quotas.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- As the Graduate School of Economics does not conduct FD specific to the graduate school program, improvements are needed to ensure that it is implemented appropriately.

Recommendation

University Management and Finance

- From AY 2019 to AY 2020, a major reorganization was carried out without revising the University regulations or the "Aichi Gakuin Educational Corporation Administrative Bureau Regulations," and other related regulations, so it is difficult to say that appropriate University management based on the regulations is being conducted. Corrective measures should be taken to improve the various regulations as soon as possible, including revision of the University regulations.