

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

Utsunomiya Kyowa University



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Private | Location: Tochigi, Japan |
| Accreditation Status | |
| Year of the Review: 2018 | |
| Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2026) | |

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Utsunomiya Kyowa University

Overview

Utsunomiya Kyowa University (hereafter, the University) promotes “all-round education (character education)” as its founding spirit. More specifically, the University pursues “character education to maximize the potential of individual students according to their distinct inborn personality, talents, and characteristics,” with the aim of “consistently improving their knowledge and abilities in light of current trends and social needs, providing a place of intellectual exchange in the local community, and cultivating human resources who can contribute to the development of the economy, education, and culture and the creation of a better society.” To this end, the University established two faculties to provide practical education: the Faculty of City Life Studies, aimed at acquiring a wide range of knowledge to address the multifaceted aspects of cities based on economics, and the Faculty of Child Studies, designed to study children’s lives and childrearing support with a focus on early childhood care and education. In 2017, it formulated the “Utsunomiya Kyowa University Medium-term Goals and Plans” up to fiscal 2022, and with educational quality assurance as a top priority, the University has undertaken initiatives primarily to support students and improve its educational environment.

To implement educational quality assurance stated in the medium-term goals and plans, the University has recognized the need to improve its curriculum and educational content. Accordingly, it seeks to ensure a systematic and consistent curriculum by creating curriculum trees (course chart) and maps, thereby introducing off-campus training and active learning to its educational programs. The medium-term goals and plans specify social cooperation and contribution as the University’s mission, and emphasize cooperation with local communities to encourage students’ self-directed learning. The University also drew up the Utsunomiya Kyowa University Regional Collaboration and Contribution Policy in 2017 to initiate social contribution activities using each faculty’s specialties through seminar activities and practicums. It is highly commendable that these initiatives have led to problem solving and revitalization of local communities.

However, the University failed to secure its enrollment quotas in the two faculties by fiscal 2017, negatively impacting the university division’s financial situation. It needs to appropriately manage its quotas and formulate medium- and long-term financial plans to establish a solid financial base as a university. With the school

corporation's financial base remaining sufficiently stable, the University has reduced student quotas and actively promoted public relations activities based on the self-study outcomes. These initiatives have shown improvements in recent years, with the Faculty of City Life Studies reaching its enrollment quota in fiscal 2018. The University is expected to make continuous improvement efforts by, for example, effectively utilizing the University-wide Admission Office scheduled to be established in January 2019.

As mentioned earlier, the University specifies educational quality assurance as its first priority, but there are several problems the University needs to address in the development and functions of its internal quality assurance system that promotes the initiative. In fiscal 2017, the University newly formed the Internal Quality Assurance Meeting as the body in charge of promoting internal quality assurance, but its activities focus primarily on verifying the appropriateness of self-study implementation. The internal quality assurance system needs to be reviewed, and improvements based on the self-study outcomes will be discussed to provide each division with appropriate support. As for the University's management that supports its various activities, there are discrepancies between rules involving a wide range of areas and actual situations. The administrative organization or each rule and regulation should be reviewed immediately.

In the coming years, the president is urged to demonstrate leadership in implementing effective governance throughout the University and pursue efficient management by examining the functions of organizational management. In addition, to meet the needs of the local community and provide education through the students' eyes, the University is strongly expected to establish an effective internal quality assurance system that ensures self-study implementation and encourage improvements based on the results, thereby attaining better education and student learning outcomes.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University is actively involved in social cooperation and contribution activities as well as industry-government-university collaborative projects. In the Faculty of City Life Studies, seminar groups play a central role in participating in research presentations, including "Community Planning Suggestions" hosted by the city of Utsunomiya, with their suggestions for community development adopted as the city's administrative policy measures. The Faculty of Child Studies supports children with disabilities and their families, and provides childrearing support in response to

community needs through interactions with local day care centers. It is commendable that the two faculties' activities utilizing the specialized resources of their students are contributing to community problem solving and revitalization, in line with the University's purpose of social contribution.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Internal Quality Assurance Meeting, newly formed as an organization promoting internal quality assurance, is primarily responsible for verifying whether the Self-Study Committee conducts self-study based on its policy and procedures. However, issues monitored by each committee are reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee and coordinated as needed by the University Association positioned as a coordinating body for the two faculties, and discussed by each faculty council before improvement initiatives are implemented. This system is not sufficiently organized for the internal quality assurance efforts to function as consistent processes under university-wide responsibility. This issue should be improved.

Recommendations

Student Enrollment

- The average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years are low at 0.49 in the University as a whole, 0.59 in the Department of City Life Studies, Faculty of City Life Studies, and 0.43 in the Department of Child Studies, Faculty of Child Studies. The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are also low at 0.47 in the University as a whole, 0.62 in the Department of City Life Studies, Faculty of City Life Studies, and 0.39 in the Department of Child Studies, Faculty of Child Studies. These ratios must be corrected with the student quotas thoroughly managed.

University Management and Finance

- Rules are established for various committees, but the University-wide Committee and the Committee for Each Faculty are not defined in these rules, with each

organizational chart failing to match rules and school codes. In addition, there are numerous discrepancies between rules and actual operations. For example, some rules do not cover all campuses; each center is not staffed by administrative staff members as specified in the rules; and rules stipulate a library office to be established in the administrative section, but a librarian is instead assigned to the general affairs division. These issues must be corrected immediately.

- The university division's financial situation shows a consistently negative balance sheet for operating activities (imputed balance sheet) greatly exceeding the operating income (imputed income). In addition, the Utsunomiya Kyowa University Medium-term Financial Plan forecasts an expenditure excess in the balance of payments during the final fiscal year, but does not include specific target values for improvements. These situations must be corrected, with the University formulating medium- and long-term financial plans stating specific target values with the aim of improving the balance sheet of the university division, thereby establishing a solid financial base as a university.