

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

Gunma Prefectural Women's University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Gunma, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Gunma Prefectural Women's University

Overview

Gunma Prefectural Women's University (hereafter, the University) was opened as a university with a single faculty, the Faculty of Literature, in 1980. Currently, the University has its campus in Tamamura Town, Sawa-gun, Gunma Prefecture with two faculties and two graduate schools (the faculties of Literature and International Communication and the graduate schools of Literature and International Communication). The University has made efforts to enhance its education and research activities in order to realize the missions for its establishment, such as to contribute to "improvement in family lives and cultural development in local society" and to foster "human talents with broad knowledge to adapt to international society and expressive sentiments," as well as its educational mission to foster "vibrant women who can be socially independent in an international society."

After its institutional accreditation by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (now the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education) in 2009, the University, led by the Self-Study Management Committee (which is headed by the president), made efforts for improvements while creating and publicizing its annual Self-Study Report. Moreover, in 2014 the University not only stipulated and publicized the three policies, but also began considering the criteria and methods for measuring competencies acquired by the students.

This is the first accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA). In this accreditation, one of the features of the University is that it pays attention to taking courses in a sequential and organized manner by stipulating the curriculum map, which takes the three policies in the faculties into consideration. As for student support, it is commendable that the scholarship system for studying abroad continues, and has become one of the notable features of the University by allowing many students to participate in study abroad every academic year. Moreover, since the University has proactively conducted social cooperation and social contribution activities, especially as part of the Foreign Language Research Institute, the Center for Gunma Studies and the Center for Community Japanese Language Education have made achievements inside and outside the University. These activities are highly commendable, and JUAA hopes that the University will make further efforts in this area.

However, the University still has several issues to address. The University, upon becoming a public university corporation by 2018, must clarify its present educational purposes as well as stipulate the organizing policies for the faculty organization. Other issues include conducting reviews of the languages in the curriculum design policy in graduate schools of Literature, clarifying grade and evaluation criteria for common subjects in faculties and graduate schools, implementing organizational efforts for improving educational content and methods, as well as taking action to improve the ratio of transfer students in some faculties and the ratio of enrollment in some graduate schools. JUAA hopes that the University will improve these issues with enhancing the review system.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University proactively developed a variety of social contributions by making use of its locality and the resources of various University institutions. For example, the Foreign Language Research Institute holds the Akashi Juku and the Akashi Cup, which aim to help local high school students improve their English. Also, the Center for Gunma Studies holds open classes and on-site classes in which prefectural residents can participate. In addition, the Center for Community Japanese Language Education offers an undergraduate program for training Japanese

language teachers as well as volunteers living in the prefecture, and creates educational materials to help foreigners living in the local community learn kanji.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate Program in Arts, basic ideas on educational content and methods are not indicated in the curriculum design policy. This should be improved.
- In the Graduate Program in Arts, students are allowed to take some undergraduate courses and the credits are counted as required credits for degree completion. However, the Graduate School does not specifically differentiate the assessment criteria for undergraduate courses. This should be improved from the perspective of quality assurance for graduate education.
- In the Graduate Program in Arts, activities to improve educational content and methods specific to the Graduate School are not sufficiently conducted. This should be improved.

Enrollment

- In the Faculty of Arts, the ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.30 in the Department of English Language, British and American Culture, 0.67 in the Department of Aesthetics and Art History, and 0.25 in the Department of Liberal Arts. These numbers should be improved.
- In the Graduate Program in International Communication, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.40. This number should be improved.