

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

Momoyama Gakuin University of Education
(St. Andrew's University of Education)



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Momoyama Gakuin University of Education (St. Andrew's University of Education)

Overview

Momoyama Gakuin University of Education is the successor organization of Poole Gakuin College that was established in 1996. Since the operator was changed to Momoyama Gakuin, which has an identical religious background, in 2018, Momoyama Gakuin University of Education has been operated as a college with the Faculty of Humanistic Education. The founding philosophy was maintained even after the change of operator, and the University conducts educational and research activities in line with the following purpose: "To impart a broad range of knowledge as an academic hub, engage in in-depth education and research in specialized arts and sciences, foster individuals who can contribute to the local and international communities as a global citizens with a global mindset and extensive knowledge, and contribute to the development of humanity's welfare and human culture." Plans for 2018 to 2021 were developed in accordance with the Second Medium-to- Long-Term Vision (2012–2021), in which numerical targets (KPI) were set for the following seven priority areas: improvement of the educational program, increase in the number of students passing the teacher recruitment examination, increase in the number of students passing the civil servant recruitment examination, increase in the number of students employed by companies, increase in the number of applicants, reduction of the number of expelled or withdrawing students, and improvement of student satisfaction. The University conducts educational and research activities aiming to achieve these goals. In addition, the University is currently formulating its own medium-term plan in accordance with Momoyama Gakuin's next medium-term plan.

As for internal quality assurance, the Executive Meeting is responsible for the promotion of internal quality assurance on a university-wide level, planning and design for promoting educational activities, and practical implementation through the respective committees. The Self-Study Committee conducts regular self-study on an organizational and university-wide scale. The results are then used for improvement and reform measures implemented by the Executive Meeting, thereby ensuring the quality of educational activities. However, the Executive Meeting issues instructions for improvement without the Self-Study Committee conducting university-wide checks and reviews. The rules do not clearly define the positions, roles, powers, and

responsibilities of the organizations involved in internal quality assurance, and the internal quality assurance system is not functioning in accordance with policies and procedures. This should be corrected.

In terms of education, the University adopts a tutor system whereby full-time teachers provide detailed support and guidance regarding study- and life-related matters from the first year to graduation, thus enabling teachers and students to develop a close relationship. The Seven Promises 2.0, which lay down the rules that all faculty, staff, and students must adhere to, and the Momokyo Standard, which categorizes the teaching competence that students should develop in the four-year period into five skills and 15 indicators and presents them as 30 concrete examples, are disseminated to and shared with students, faculty, and staff and embody the University's founding philosophy. These are remarkable initiatives as they enable faculty, staff, and students to share these examples that are described in plain language as common words, teachers to create syllabuses on the basis of the examples, and students to evaluate themselves using a learning portfolio.

In the area of social cooperation and contribution, the University has a system that enables teachers to create classes based on their own research in local cooperation and students to participate in activities that contribute to the local community. Sports, health, and international exchange-related activities, among others, serve as opportunities for students aspiring to become teachers or civil servants after graduation to gain experience in and learn about a variety of areas. Momoyama Gakuin University of Education is building on and leveraging the local cooperation activities developed during the Poole Gakuin College days to make the University more attractive, which is a commendable endeavor.

However, there are multiple issues regarding educational and research structure and university management. For instance, the University does not conduct organizational, continuous staff development (hereinafter "SD") activities, and minutes are not taken at important meetings. Such issues related to university management require urgent correction. The University has developed an internal quality assurance system while undergoing a change of operator and restructuring. However, going forward, the JUAA hopes the University solves these issues and ensures the quality of educational and research activities by clarifying the roles of and cooperative relationships between the organizations involved in internal quality assurance, formulating its own unique plan based on Momoyama Gakuin University of Education's medium- to long-term plan, and enabling the PDCA process to function properly.

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The University visualizes the achievement status of the degree award policy and Momokyo Standard through having students evaluate themselves using their learning portfolios, as well as introducing radar charts designed to associate initiatives aimed at enhancing educational effects with GPA. In this way, the University provides students with detailed guidance based on evaluation of subjective and objective data. Leveraging the Momokyo Standard, detailed guidance for taking courses provided through the tutor system, and active education and guidance activities conducted by teachers as part of the tutor system, the University is expected to stimulate student learning, ensure out-of-class learning time, and improve learning outcomes, which is commendable.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- Although the corporation has an overall medium- to long-term plan, the University does not have its own medium- to long-term plan. Moreover, even though the University has formulated annual business plans in accordance with the numerical targets of the KPI since the change of operator and intends to realize the University's mission and purpose by achieving the annual plans, the achievement status of the vision for realizing the University's mission and purpose is not evaluated appropriately. Therefore, the university division should formulate an appropriate medium- to long-term plan.

Education and Research Organizations

- Among the attached centers, only the Teacher Education Center has its own regulations. Therefore, improvements should be made to ensure appropriate management of education and research organizations.

Recommendation

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Self-Study Committee that is responsible for conducting university-wide checks and reviews is not functioning, while the Executive Meeting conducts evaluations and provides feedback for improvement directly. Thus, the internal quality assurance system is not functioning in accordance with the Self-Study

Regulations. In addition, the division of roles and cooperative relationships among the respective organizations have not been adequately realized in accordance with the regulations. This should be corrected by establishing a structure for university-wide checks and reviews and promoting internal quality assurance in accordance with the regulations.

University Management and Finance

- As minutes are not taken in departmental meetings and committee meetings, the University's decisions and decision-making procedures lack transparency. This should be corrected by reviewing the meeting management procedures that contribute to appropriate and effective university management.
- In order to improve the quality of its office staff, the University participates in the Joint General Staff Training with Momoyama Gakuin University, holds the Anglican School Association Training with its affiliated schools, and participates in training sessions organized by external organizations. However, the University does not conduct organizational, continuous training aimed at improving the motivation and quality of its office staff and faculty members. In order to correct the situation, the University should review its SD activities and carry out SD activities intended for office staff and faculty members that enable university management based on cooperation between them.