

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for
Professional Graduate School of Intellectual Property Studies**

**Osaka Institute of Technology
Graduate School of Intellectual Property**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, 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 Osaka Institute of Technology Graduate School of Intellectual Property

Osaka Institute of Technology Graduate School of Intellectual Property (hereafter “Graduate School”) has set its own goals to develop “high-level professionals with the intellectual property-related knowledge and skills necessary to support innovation, as well as legal knowledge, global perspectives, and business sense.” As a course of action to accomplish these goals, the Graduate School formulates the Policy of the Dean of the Graduate School of Intellectual Property every academic year.

With respect to the curriculum, the Graduate School offers approximately 60 subjects in the Core Law Area, Innovation Support Area, Global Area, Business Area, Interdisciplinary Area, and Research Area in order to cover the knowledge and skills required of intellectual property professionals, while providing a systematically designed curriculum to meet the needs of students of diverse backgrounds. The Reference Standards for Curriculum Design in Intellectual Property Studies, drawn up in AY2021, defines “intellectual property studies” and other terms and specifically outlines the abilities listed in the degree award policy (diploma policy). The Reference Standards sets out eight basic qualities that intellectual property students should aim to acquire, including “the ability to understand the social value of intellectual property and a sense of ethics to respect intellectual property,” along with three generic skills that students should acquire in the course of studying intellectual property, including “a sense of balance between social and private interests.” The Graduate School uses the Reference Standards in reviewing the curriculum design. As one of its strengths, this commendable initiative should assist other universities in designing their intellectual property education. It is also highly commendable that the Graduate School has established a long-term enrollment program that allows mainly working students to maintain a proper work-study balance and study at their own pace. Furthermore, the Graduate School has introduced distance learning classes utilizing various media (hereafter “media classes”). In addition, with the early admission system for students enrolled in the Faculty of Intellectual Property, the Graduate School accepts students in collaboration with the Faculty. These are also distinctive initiatives.

As for facilities and equipment, the Graduate School has set up research rooms on the Omiya Campus for graduate students, providing them with desks and lockers, and a Learning Commons in each of the university libraries for private rooms and group

discussions, thereby making sufficient facilities and equipment available for students' independent study and exchanges. In the university libraries and the archive room of the Graduate School (hereafter “Dedicated Library”), a sufficient collection of books on intellectual property laws as well as intellectual property-related databases are available. In addition, the easily accessible Umeda Campus has an ample number of classrooms for evening lectures. This campus offers a seminar room that can accommodate 200 people and a hall with a capacity of 560 seats that is ideal for holding various events as well as lectures. As these facilities and equipment are actively used by students, it is highly commendable that the Graduate School is able to provide an adequate educational and research environment.

In terms of job-search support, the Career Support Section of the university-wide Career Support Department frequently accepts requests for counseling from students seeking employment, and the Graduate School also provides extensive job-search support in forms of internships, company information sessions, resume writing support, and mock interviews, mainly through the Job-Search Committee. As a result, about half the alumni secure jobs in the intellectual property field, which is a commendable result.

The Kansai Intellectual Property Seminar, held many times a year by the Graduate School and joined by external experts and practitioners, covers a variety of themes, including cutting-edge ones. The seminar is used as part of the Graduate School’s faculty development (hereafter “FD”) activities to update the contents of lectures, and also plays a significant role in public relations activities, which is highly commendable.

There are several areas of improvement, however, identified in the certified evaluation and accreditation. First, the Graduate School needs to devise a clear, integrated medium- to long-term vision to deal with its own issues, separate from the annual Policy of the Dean and the Reference Standards for Curriculum Design in Intellectual Property Studies. Regarding student enrollment, the number of enrolled students has exceeded the student enrollment cap for the past several years. With respect to faculty organization, the Graduate School does not have a clear policy on the makeup of its faculty, even though it faces several issues, including the lack of young faculty members. Furthermore, it is necessary to create clear standards and rules not only for the faculty recruitment process, but also for evaluating the achievements and background of the applicants. As for the faculty members, their research and other activities are negatively affected in some cases by the significant amount of time invested in student support, graduate school administration, and other commitments, in addition to their lecturer duties, although the Dean has taken steps to make some adjustments. The Graduate School is advised to make further improvements in this regard.

To deal with the issues raised above, the Graduate School should adopt the results of the Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate School of Intellectual Property Studies, and continue its self-study efforts for improvement to assure and improve the quality of education and further enhance its distinctive features.