

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for
Law School**

Kansai University School of Law



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 Kansai University School of Law

Kansai University School of Law (hereafter “Law School”) has established its goals “to provide advanced professional legal education that bridges the gap between theory and practice in order to cultivate the basic qualities required by legal professionals and train creative professionals equipped with high professional ethics and a strong sense of social justice,” in accordance with the university-wide founding philosophy of “GAKU-NO-JITSUGE,” which means developing human resources who serve useful roles in the real world by harmonizing academic theory and practice.

To achieve the goals the Law School has taken the following distinctive initiatives.

First, with respect to the curriculum, the “Externship in Overseas,” in which students participate in activities to support the establishment of legal systems in Asian countries, is expected to resume in AY2024 with the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. This course has motivated some alumni to become experts providing long-term support for the establishment of legal systems abroad. This commendable initiative is unique and not offered by other law schools. In addition, the Law School offers a full range of courses on Chinese business law, including Chinese Business Law 1-3 and Chinese Business Law Seminar, as well as the practical Legal Support for Business in Asia course. This is also a unique and highly commendable initiative.

Next, as a distinctive effort to provide detailed guidance to students, the Law School assigns one supervising instructor to every five to six students, with the responsible supervisors regularly holding one-on-one interviews with their students at the end of each semester, and brings together the information on all students in the “Student Records” for sharing among faculty members. It is also commendable that the Questionnaire for Successful Candidates and the Law School Journal feature the success stories of students who have passed the bar examination and the active careers of alumni, which are useful for current students. The Law School also offers Lecture on Activities of In-House Lawyer course that introduces the realities of today's practitioners. In this course, practitioners who have completed the Law School program serve as instructors, and alumni serve as teaching assistants (TA) and eventually as academic advisors, providing guidance and advice to current students. Both are excellent efforts that support the sustainability of the Law School.

In terms of facilities, the Law School has extended the service hours of the law

library since the last certified evaluation and accreditation for law school. The study room is available 24 hours a day, and there is a study room exclusively for female students. These are recognized as excellent initiatives.

There are several areas of improvement, however, the Law School needs to address.

First, the Law School's pass rate for the bar examination fell below one-half the national average in AY2018, AY2020, and AY2021, but improved significantly in AY2022, suggesting that its various efforts are beginning to produce results. Going forward, the Law School should continue its efforts to improve the pass rate.

Second, the Law School sets out that applicants who have completed (or expect to complete) a legal profession course at an undergraduate law faculty with which the school has concluded a Jurist Training Coordination Agreement will receive specific additional points in the entrance examination screening process. According to the Law School, the rationale behind the additional points is that applicants "made their own choice to take the process education of a legal profession course." However, it is questionable from the viewpoint of fairness whether this selection method is acceptable to society, given the fact that the only reason for the additional points is that applicants made their own choice to take the process education of a legal profession course with no grading requirements. In particular, with respect to the advantage given to applicants who have completed (or expect to complete) a legal profession course, even in the entrance examination for a course created for applicants with no legal studies experience, it is highly questionable whether this setup is compatible with the purpose of the law school system aiming to widely accept applicants with no legal studies experience.

As the third area of improvement, the Law School offers a slightly smaller number of Basic Law and Adjacent Subjects. In addition, the Law and Society (Judicial Practices) course is classified as a Basic Law/Adjacent Subject. It is recommended that the Law School consider whether these are appropriate.

To deal with the issues raised above, the Law School should adopt the results of the certified evaluation and accreditation for law school and continue its self-study efforts for improvement to further assure and improve the quality of its education.