

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

Keio University

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2012	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2020)	
Related Links	
Keio University: http://www.keio.ac.jp/index-en	
Full Text of the Accreditation Results (in Japanese): http://www.juaa.or.jp/accreditation/university/result_2012.html	
Accreditation Standards, Process and other related information (in English): http://www.juaa.or.jp/en/accreditation/university.html	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Keio University

Notable Strengths

Education and research organization

- It is commendable that Keio University has produced good results as one of the “Global 30” universities that the Japanese government has chosen as a domestic hub for internationalization. For example, the number of foreign students enrolled at the university has steadily increased. One Faculty and six Graduate Schools have offered and implemented educational programs that allow students to acquire degrees by taking courses in only English. In terms of research, the university has partnerships with more than 250 universities and research organizations overseas, which has enhanced exchange.

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that the university implements a curriculum that promotes an education of active problem solving. For example, the Faculty of Policy Management and the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies have made such efforts, which include: directing attention to remedial education and first-year education; enhancing students’ foreign language abilities and media literacy skills necessary for senior projects through “Creative Courses”; having students explore specific disciplines through “Frontier Courses”; creating courses that look for solutions for contemporary problems in policy management and environment; and, allowing students to take seminars from their freshman year.

Student support

- It is commendable that the university and alumni join forces to realize the educational mission of “nurturing individuals who have the ability to think for themselves and take action on their own.” In particular, the Alumni Registry, which enables students to meet alumni and ask for career advice, provides valuable connections based on the university’s long line of graduates. Approximately 75% of students voluntarily call on alumni and ask them for career advice, which proves that students are making good use of this system for career design and job-hunting.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and purpose

- In their regulations, all the Faculties and Graduate Schools, with the exception of the Law School, have not stated their educational purposes in terms of fostering of human resources and carrying out education and research. This should be improved.

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- Although many Faculties and Graduate Schools (i.e., the Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Policy Management, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Faculty of Nursing and Medical Care, Graduate School of Letters, Graduate School of Economics,

Graduate School of Law, Graduate School of Human Relations, Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Business Administration, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Graduate School of Health Management, Graduate School of System Design and Management, and Graduate School of Media Design) have policies for awarding degrees, such policies only list the requirements for graduation and/or completing the program and do not clearly state learning outcomes of the programs. This should be improved.

- Although the Graduate School of Letters has set policies for organizing and implementing its curriculum, it does not indicate its basic ideas concerning educational content and methods. This should be rectified.
- The maximum number of credits students can register for in the Faculty of Letters is 52 for first-year students, but there is no limit for the second, third, and fourth years. The maximum number of credits is 52 in the Department of Political Science at the Faculty of Law, and 50 in the Faculty of Commerce, with no limit in the Faculty of Science and Technology. This should be improved in accordance with the purposes of the credit system.
- In all doctoral programs, with the exception of the Law School, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the university before completing the dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the university. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. The regulations of the programs allow for these cases. This is inappropriate and should be corrected. The university should modify the ways to address these cases, and, in accordance with the purpose of having course-based doctoral programs, should create measures to encourage degree completion within the required time frame.
- In all the Graduate Schools with the exception of the Law School, the criteria for evaluating degree-seeking theses and dissertations are not clarified. This should be improved by clarifying the criteria in the Course Registration Guide (and other handbooks), making them accessible to students.
- In the Graduate School of Medicine, requirements for completing both the master's and doctoral programs have not been stipulated. This should be clarified for the students in the Course Registration Guide (and other handbooks).

Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to freshman admission cap is high at 1.01 in the School of Medicine and 1.23 in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Faculty of Pharmacy. This should be rectified. The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.01 in the School of Medicine. The ratio is also high at 1.21 in the Department of Administration Engineering and 1.22 in the Department of System Design Engineering in the Faculty of Science and Technology. The ratio is high at 1.23 in the Department of Pharmaceutical Science in the Faculty of Pharmacy, and 2.07 in the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Media Design. In contrast, it is low at 0.39 in the master's program in the Graduate School of Economics, and 0.45 in the master's program in the Graduate School of Law. These numbers should be improved.