

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for
Professional Graduate Business School**

**Business School, Institute of Business and Accounting,
Kwansei Gakuin University**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Hyogo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2024	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2030)	

**Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results
for the Business School, Institute of Business and Accounting,
Kwansei Gakuin University**

Kwansei Gakuin University, founded based on the principles of Christianity, operates under the motto: “Mastery for Service,” while the University’s professional graduate school (hereafter, the Business School) has the additional independent purpose of “fostering deep knowledge and outstanding abilities in order to take up occupations requiring high levels of expertise.”

For this purpose, the Business School holds its Corporate Strategic Management Course at the Osaka Umeda Campus (Osaka Prefecture), and the International Management Course at the Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus (Hyogo Prefecture) and the Osaka Umeda Campus. Offering a range of distinctive education programs designed, for example, to train small and mid-sized enterprise management consultants and to develop entrepreneurship and family business management skills, the Business School is expanding the global reach of its education programs through accepting international trainees from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as exchange students recommended by the University’s overseas partner institutions and by foreign embassies. As for course structuring, both the Corporate Strategic Management Course and the International Management Course offer courses under three subject categories: core, basic, and advanced. The curricula are designed in a way that allows students to study in a sequential manner, with course selection advice provided to ensure that student learning meets the objectives of their chosen Course. The Master of Business Administration degree is awarded to students who earn the required credits and knowledge and skills specified in the degree award policy (diploma policy).

As a center for adult reskilling and recurrent education, an initiative promoted by the national government, the Business School offers several lifelong learning programs, including the certificate program “Happy Career Program for Women,” “the Education program for Management of Community-based Health care Organizations and Clinics” and “the Human Resources Development Program for MICE, Regional Tourism Responding to Inbound Tourist.” These adult learning programs are highly commendable undertakings, serving as an effective strategy to consistently attract capable students to the professional graduate school as shown by some graduates later enrolling in the Business School’s graduate degree program.

There are several areas for improvement the Business School should address,

however.

First, student selection in the admission process requires scrutiny. Under the current practice, applicants' individual backgrounds are evaluated, and based on agreement by all evaluators, converted into points that determine the admission decision. Yet there are cases where the points are unevenly allocated among the applicants. While JUAA appreciates the need to increase student diversity, the Business School is advised to modify its admission decision-making process and criteria.

Second, with respect to the evaluation of faculty activities, the Business School does not have clear evaluation standards in place for two areas, namely "social engagement and contribution" and "involvement with government and industry." This situation must be improved to ensure that faculty members are properly evaluated in these areas.

The third area for improvement concerns the assessment of student academic achievement. Although student performance is assessed based on absolute standards, the grade distribution in many courses is skewed towards A's, or raw scores of 85 points or higher. Given that all Business School courses are included in the GPA calculations, the grading pattern is affecting both the students' GPA scores and their course selection decisions. The intention of this finding is not to advocate a switch to relative grading, but to improve the grading practice in the medium term to ensure that coursework is consistent with the requirements set out in the diploma policy across all programs.

Lastly, the Business School's International Management Course enrolls a certain number of international students accepted under the University's partnership agreements. While JUAA appreciates there is no other program suitable for English-track graduate-level students, the attendance of exchange students has had a negative impact on both class participation of regular students and teacher motivation in class management. This situation should be addressed in the medium term to ensure consistent improvement of the Business School's teaching standards.

To address the issues raised above, the Business School is advised to utilize the results of the certified evaluation and accreditation for professional graduate business schools and to continue its self-study efforts for improvement. Going forward, the Business School is expected to assure and enhance the quality of its education programs as it strives to further develop its unique characteristics.