

SHIKOKU GAKUIN UNIVERSITY (四国学院大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

SHIKOKU GAKUIN UNIVERSITY, which had been formerly known as “Shikoku Christian School”, has worked to foster capable human resources who will play an active role in local and international communities according to its Christian-based school philosophy, and has contributed to cultural and social improvement. Article 1 of the school rules says, “Based on the Christian doctrines contained in the Old Testament, in accordance with the School Education Act, we aim to allow students to acquire accomplishments and seek truth academically, as well as to foster human resources who serve God by serving others.” In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the school rules, the institution has stated three policies (i.e., diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy) in the supplement to the school rules, which specifies the purpose of faculties and departments from a perspective of education and research, and the purpose of human resource development. The institution has built an education and research structure consisting of three faculties, three departments, and three courses of three graduate schools, with the aim of achieving its mission and objectives. Its mission, goals, and educational objectives were reflected in the mid- and long-term plan “D&D = Postmodern Intellectual Community” and three policies, and were made known to not only teachers and students, but also outside the school.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution clearly defined and publicized the student admission policies for the university and graduate schools, based on which entrance examinations have been conducted in various forms. Although teachers and other school staff made a concerted effort to promote student recruitment, there are still some departments whose replenishment rate of student quotas has remained low. Therefore, it is expected that such efforts will produce good results in the future. The institution has developed its educational curriculum in line with the educational curriculum development policy, and has provided education under its unique educational policy. Teachers and other school staff worked together to provide sufficient learning support to students with the help of peer leader students. The processes of accreditation, promotion, and graduation/completion certification have been performed strictly based on their criteria.

The institution has offered diverse career education subjects, and provided strong support to students. The results of class evaluation questionnaires were fed back to teachers, and individual teachers submitted their opinions and remedial measures to the university. To provide school life support, the institution has provided its own unique scholarship programs. There are some faculties which have not fully finished developing their educational environment, and have not yet created a balanced age structure for teachers. However, teachers have been properly appointed in accordance with the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and the educational objectives have been achieved.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

The board of directors as the highest decision-making body and the board of councilors as an advisory body performed their functions in accordance with the “Shikoku Gakuin University Articles of Endowment”, and the school corporation has been properly managed. Top-priority matters that require constant decision-making were discussed and decided by the board members panel and the board members conference. The principal, who is the chief executive of university administration, took responsibility for decision-making and administrative operation. The institution established a structure to assist the principal in exercising his/her leadership, as well as a conference body. The board members panel representing the governing body, and the deans and directors meeting representing the school organization, functioned effectively in cooperation with each other. The school-wide academic liaison council was held periodically to hear the opinions of teachers. Details about the clerical organization, including its organizational structure, division of duties, and powers, were specified in the “Shikoku Gakuin University Organizational Regulations”, based on which the organization has been properly operated.

The institution formulated the mid- and long-term plan “D&D = Postmodern Intellectual Community”, and ensured proper financial management. It has also performed accounts processing and audits appropriately and strictly.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

In accordance with the “Regulations on the Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee” set forth by the institution according to its mission and objectives, the principal took the initiative in conducting transparent self-inspections and evaluations independently and autonomously based on evidence. Issues related to self-inspections and evaluations were promptly verified and addressed by various meetings and committees which were held periodically.

A structure utilizing the results of self-inspections and evaluations for improvement and enhancement of university operations was created, and such results were made known to teachers and other school staff, and shared among them.

To sum up, the institution has been active in devising ingenious ways of promoting education and research based on its school philosophy as well as its mission, goals and educational objectives. For learning and teaching, it has made efforts to improve its teacher organization and educational environment. For management, administration and finance, it has maintained proper management and administration. By conducting organization-wide self-inspections and evaluations periodically, it has made continuous efforts to improve and enhance education and research.

For details about “Standard A. Collaboration with Society” and “Standard B. International Exchange”, which are set forth as the institution’s unique initiative based on its mission and objectives, please refer to the general remarks on the standard.