

Okayama Gakuin University (岡山学院大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University's mission, goals and educational objectives are stated in the University Regulations, its threefold founding principles of self-formation, carrying out one's beliefs and living and flourishing together are concisely shown, and the Educational Guidelines for the Department of Food and Nutrition, Faculty of Human Services, Okayama Gakuin University have been stipulated. The educational goals of fostering professionals who can provide nutritional guidance to improve quality of life (QOL) are clearly stated.

In accordance with the threefold principles the University is implementing the medium-term plan, a management plan that is part of the management reform plans led by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), while at the same time an educational policy including the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy has been established by the Board of Directors, and the faculty and staff share a common awareness of the viewpoint of inspection and evaluation as a way of obtaining learning achievement.

While the implementation of the management reform plan is still midway, an educational and research organization requisite for attaining the University's mission and goals has been developed.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

Based on the educational principles stipulated in the University Regulations, a policy for the creation and implementation of an educational curriculum has been determined, and a systematic educational curriculum drawn up. Though an admissions policy in line with educational principles based on the threefold principles a system for the selection of students is in place, but more efforts need to be made in the direction of fulfilling enrollment quotas.

The University is working on initiatives for bidirectional tuition between the students and faculty, has introduced a class mentor system, proficiency tests for the attainment of educational objectives, and tuition questionnaires through which it carries out support for learning and class instruction, and conducts comprehensive achievement evaluations using Grade Point Averages (GPA). The University uses tuition questionnaires to ascertain learning results, upon which is based the Tuition Improvement C&A Report compiled by the University. It also uses a rubric evaluation for community collaboration projects and questionnaires on the state of job placements, and through all of these innovations it is trying to improve the educational curriculum, its content/method, and learning guidance. Work to make the interior of University buildings barrier-free has been completed, but it is to be hoped that the University will complete these efforts in the areas of the campus that are not yet barrier-free.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The administration of the University is appropriately executed in line with laws, the articles of endowment, University and all other regulations. Through the University's Board of Directors and Board of Councilors, as well as the incorporated entity organization's Management Reform Project Team, Education and Research Activity Promotion Committee and Faculty Development (FD) Committee, ongoing efforts are being made in line with the management reform plan towards realizing the University's mission and goals.

The President holds the right to make final decisions about all aspects of University business, the Faculty Council deliberates the important matters related to education and learning, and the roles and functions regarding the University's decision-making and the execution of business are clear. With regard to general issues concerning university operation the entire faculty and staff are consulted, and the execution of administrative decision-making is conducted in a smooth manner.

Audits are carried out appropriately and in line with law by CPAs and auditors. The University is currently implementing a management reform plan with the aim of seeking management stability through the securing on new students, and it urgently needs to realize full student capacity and establish a stable financial base.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

Self-inspection and evaluation in line with the mission and goals of the University is promoted in the management reform plan under which, on an annual basis, committee activities and initiatives aimed at issue improvements dealt with by such parties as the FD Council to which all faculty participate in are conducted. At the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee, FD Committee and so on, FD activities regarding the educational affairs of the faculty, students' learning and lifestyles are reported on, debated in FD/SD workshops and implemented as initiatives that have become a daily practice.

With regard to the issues raised according to the self-inspection and evaluation conducted in line with the collated surveys and data, through debate on them by the FD Council and Faculty Council efforts are made to share the results of the self-inspection and evaluation within the University, in addition to which efforts are made to ascertain the circumstances of students through the results of the tuition questionnaires and student lifestyle questionnaires, and to improve education, research and administration. Initiatives concerning university operation and the improvement of the University's financial state are made pursuant to the management reform plan, and inspected through the Management Reform Implementation Administration Table.

In summary, in accordance with the University's threefold educational founding principles and under the leadership of the President, ongoing efforts are being made towards the attainment of the mission and goals with the accord of all the faculty and staff. The University is using its own innovations to evaluate the degree to which tuition reforms and community collaboration projects are succeeding. As expenditures have outstripped income ever since the University was opened it is seeking to stabilize management by securing new students and implementing a management reform plan. The University needs to fully exercise its individuality and strengths and rapidly pursue reform.

Note that with regard to the University's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Social contribution" should be referred to.