

Otemae University (大手前大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution is a private university that has main campuses in Nishinomiya City and Itami City, Hyogo Prefecture. Its foundation can be traced back to Otemae Cultural Institute, which was established in Otemaenochō, Osaka City in 1946. In 2000, Otemae University for Women was changed to co-ed system education and renamed Otemae University. The Faculty of Cultural and Historical Studies, the Faculty of Media and Arts, and the Faculty of Modern Social Studies with Online Courses were established. Graduate School of Comparative Literature (the current Graduate School of Comparative Culture) was also established.

The school philosophy is STUDY FOR LIFE, based on which the university's mission and objectives have been determined. Its mission is to provide lifelong education, personality formation and the development of problem-solving abilities, and contribution to local and international communities. Its objectives are to develop human resources with good education, expertise, a strong self-development spirit, excellent internationally-mindedness, and problem-solving abilities, and to contribute to local and international communities as a hub of local education and studies and lifelong learning.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The admission of students is properly carried out in various ways according to the admission policy. It is desired that the student quota should be met properly in all the faculties.

The educational curriculum is determined according to the curriculum policy, and characteristic general education is provided. There are organizations including Learning Support Center to ensure that, for the development of C-PLATS® capabilities in liberal arts education, the PBL (problem-based learning) and the SDL (self-directed learning) are positioned as a core of classes, and all-campus presentation contests are held to visualize the development of the C-PLATS® capabilities. Students have an access to the LMS (Learning Management System) to manage their learning. The Learning Support Liaison Committee with the collaboration between teachers and staff is the key to support for learning.

The standards for accrediting, promotion, and graduation/completion are properly operated according to the diploma policy. The attainment level of the educational purposes is carefully checked by a teachers' organization called the Competency Faculty. Services for students are good in all aspects, and teacher assignment and faculty development are carried out properly.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

In 2015, the institution established Action Principles consisting of 10 principles to be observed by officers, teachers and staff, etc., so as to fulfill social responsibilities by acting fairly and honestly with a high ethical view and a strong will.

Efforts for compliance and the establishment of rules are also based on these Action Principles. There is an appropriate system for decision-making of the incorporated entity and the institution,

including the board of directors, the board of executive directors, and the board of councilors on education and learning management. Three vice-presidents are assigned so that the President can fully exercise leadership.

The institution has good communication systems between the incorporated entity and the institution, and for mutual inspection. Authority is properly distributed and responsibilities are clarified. In addition, the internal operation system is appropriate and highly functional.

Proper financial management is ensured based on a detailed mid-term plan. The financial base is stable, and funding is secured to achieve the university's mission, objectives and educational purposes. For accounting, there is a three-type audit system working, which consists of internal audits, audits by auditors, and external accounting audits.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

The institution has Otemae University Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee Regulations, which are independent and autonomous regulations based on the school rules. Questionnaires for class evaluation are conducted as appropriate, and Self-Inspection and Evaluation are publicized. In the 2009 academic year, it received certified evaluation and accreditation from the Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation.

In the 2014 academic year, a section with IR (Institutional Research) function was established as a management office to collect and analyze various data on education and learning. The institution follows the PDCA cycle in which all measures are evaluated and analyzed on a planning phase before implementation. The C-PLATS® system for education also has a similar function.

The efforts of the FD (Faculty Development) Committee, including the internal community activity reports of the Competency Faculty, the Logical Thinking Faculty, and the Communication Faculty, etc., are honest and sincere. These efforts also contribute to self-inspection and evaluation.

To sum up, the attitude of the institution is not defensive but active which is directly linked to improvement of the institution, assurance of the quality of education, and the development and success of students. Marking the 70th anniversary of its foundation and the 50th anniversary of the university's establishment, the institution is facing a new era with all-campus officers, teachers and staff reviewing the school philosophy, the university's mission and objectives, and educational purposes together. It is said that the founder of the university thought about a new way for Japan to take after the chaos of the post-war society, and established the institute. Its spirit and education have been passed down until now.

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