

Kansai University of Welfare Sciences (関西福祉科学大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution specified that its mission and goal based on its school philosophy of “Kan-On (gratitude)” are to cultivate human resources who can be passionate about contributing to building a welfare society for the 21st century, clarifying its originality and features. In accordance with applicable laws and regulations, such as the Fundamental Act of Education and the School Education Act, its educational objectives were developed as part of school-wide educational reform efforts based on the mid- and long-term plans for the whole school. Those objectives were understood and supported by board members, teachers and other school staff, and have been reflected in its three policies (i.e., diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy). The institution made efforts for review and implementation of various proposals for reform in line with the vision for the future based on an analysis of regional issues. It also made efforts to respond to social changes by restructuring, and improving education and research organizations of each faculty and department. Details about those efforts have been publicized through its website and PR brochures as well as various media in order to keep everyone informed about them, internally and externally.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The admission policy for each faculty and department was concisely described in the university brochure, the guide to entrance examination, and the website, etc. Although some departments have not fulfilled their student quota, the institution has taken measures for improvement in its student recruitment system by changing the student quota and reforming its academic organization. The educational curriculum was developed systematically to achieve the educational objectives set out based on the mission and goal. A cloud-type educational assistance system utilizing information and communication technology (ICT) was introduced, and teaching assistants (TAs) and student assistants (SAs) were appointed. In addition, a system for learning and placement assistance with cooperation between teachers and other school staff, including the student support center and the academic affairs division, was established. Criteria for accreditation, promotion and graduation were properly set, and publicized through a student book, etc. Teachers have worked to devise better ways of teaching and improve their lectures, for example by introducing active learning techniques, in their faculty development (FD) activities. The required number of teachers set by the Standards for Establishment of Universities has been maintained. The institution has created an educational environment, including ICT equipment and a library, and has given due consideration to the safety of each educational facility and piece of equipment, and to the creation of a barrier-free environment.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

As for administration and management, the institution established various rules and a governing structure in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including the School Education Act,

the Private School Act, and the Standards for Establishment of Universities, and has conducted a check and review of its mission and goal based on the mid- and long-term plans for the whole institution every year, aiming at achieving an improvement. The institution properly publicized educational and financial information through its website or by other means with due consideration to human rights and security. It established the “Management Board” under the board of directors, consisting of internal board members, such as the administrative director and the principal, to enhance communication between the governing body and the university as well as governance functions with the aim of facilitating smooth-decision making, and accelerating achievement of the goal. Besides, various meetings, including “University Conference”, “Executive Committee”, “Management and Academic Affairs Committee” and “Future Planning Committee”, were organized to functionally ensure that the principal exercises leadership, and the system operates properly. With regard to finance, the institution appropriately implemented operating audits and accounting audits aimed at improving its financial base by securing steady income from student tuition and other fees.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

The institution conducted a self-inspection and evaluation by making use of a school-wide evaluation every three years in accordance with the “University Self-inspection and Evaluation Rules”, and the “Annual Report” prepared every year. It promoted school-wide sharing of data on the progress of educational reform in each faculty and department, and improvement tasks of the administrative office via an internal LAN. Such shared data were referenced in individual self-inspection of teachers and other school staff as part of a daily PDCA cycle. Details about school-wide self-inspection and evaluation were published on the website, and the annual results were distributed to teachers and other school staff in the form of printed matter.

To sum up, the institution has conducted appropriate education toward the educational objectives of each department based on its mission and goal. For learning and teaching, it has adopted a unique education practice method so that it can fully exhibit its originality as a university which aims to contribute to a welfare society. For management, administration and finance, it has strived to build a school-wide education reform system, and stabilize management in compliance with laws and regulations. Considering self-inspection and evaluation as a driving force of university reform, the institution has made steady efforts in this area.

For details about “Standard A. Collaboration with Society”, 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.