

Osaka Ohtani University (大阪大谷大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

Since Ohtani Women’s University is founded as a previous form of Osaka Ohtani University in 1966, the University aims to “foster human recourses with excellent attainment, aesthetic sentiments, and character and therefore contribute to development of society and improvement of culture.”

Furthermore, in 2006, when the University became coeducation and its name was changed to Osaka Ohtani University, it set up new educational philosophy, “independence, creativity, and coexistence,” based on the spirit of foundation.

The spirit of foundation and the mission, objectives and educational objective of the University are clearly reflected in three policies (diploma policy, curriculum policy, and admission policy) and the first long-term plan, “Osaka Ohtani Vision 2025” which was formulated on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding and is currently promoted.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

Based on its educational objectives, the University organizes its educational curriculum in three main subject groups: “common subjects,” “special subjects,” and “carrier subjects.” It offers small-group learning and active learning to facilitate voluntary learning of students. Moreover, it tries to make environment where teachers can easily draw student’s opinion by staffing seminar supervisors and adviser teachers in the department of pharmacy.

The “Teaching Carrier Education Center” and the Business Seeking Guidance support to find employment in collaboration with each department for students who seek teaching position and other positions, respectively. In 2016, the University introduced “Employment-Searching NAVI” system and “Carrier Support Room” to build up employment supporting system.

The University also carries out “lecture evaluation questionnaires for teachers” every year where teachers themselves review DVD of lectures to report an improvement plan to academic deans and improve their teaching methods.

“Standard 3. Management, Admission and Finance”

The University periodically organizes council and faculty meetings, as well as “round-table conference of executive board members” and “regular conference” which include the Chairman and the President to accomplish the mission and objectives. The University has a system where the President can control the council meeting which is the supreme decision-making body of the University and take the leadership to operate the University. In 2013, a President's room has been newly set up to strengthen the governance system.

Apart from the Boards of Directors and trustees, it organizes the “On-campus Board of

Directors” as a body to share and discuss information within the corporate business and the “regular conference” where responsible persons of each division of the corporate business attend and discuss the operations of each school.

Although the payment balance continues to be minus in the whole corporate business, because of large amount of business investment for relocation of the high school attached thereto, the University is trying to get back healthy growth of financial characteristic based on its middle- and long-term financial plan, “Ohtani Gakuen Master Plan 2016-2025,” which was approved in the Board of Directors in March 2016.

“Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation”

The University has a Self-Inspection and Evaluation committees at a whole university level and in each department, graduate school and executive office to perform Self-Inspection and Evaluation in each organization.

It analyzes and published the results of various basic data and lecture evaluation questionnaires which support Self-Inspection and Evaluation. In 2014, it also set up “Institutional Research (IR) room” to collect, analyze, and suggest data related to educational research and conduct various surveys and questionnaires.

The Faculty Development (FD) department meeting summarizes the results of “lecture evaluation questionnaires for students” and “lecture evaluation questionnaires for teachers” and reports them to the Self-Inspection and Evaluation committees. Amelioration status of classroom environment based on the results of questionnaires are known to everybody in its web portal site “Active Academy”.

In general, the University is building educational research organizations and administrative structure to execute duties necessary to convert the spirit of foundation “to express the feeling of gratitude” of Mahayana Buddhism into tangible forms and find a shape of its mission and objectives under the leadership of the President and is implementing various activities properly to accomplish the University’s goal to “foster human recourses with excellent attainment, aesthetic sentiments, and character and therefore contribute to development of society and improvement of culture.”

Please see a general comment of the standard for “Standard A. Contribution to Local Society and Regional Alliances” defined as a unique framework of the University based on its mission and goals.