

BUNKA GAKUEN UNIVERSITY JUNIOR COLLEGE (文化学園大学短期大学部)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

With the founding of Bunka Women's University in 1964, the Junior College was renamed Bunka Women's University Junior College. Today it is known as one of the top junior colleges in its field in Japan, and the aim for it in the redevelopment plan of the Junior College's incorporated entity is to become an international, urban junior college. Declaring "Creating new beauty and culture" as its founding principle, the Department of Fashion has clearly stated that its educational objectives are to develop human resources with the sense and the competence to contribute to society and to enhance education for the human being. These are stipulated in the Junior College Regulations. Furthermore, the Junior College's incorporated entity identifies the three main pillars of "Globalization, Innovation, and Creation" as the direction for the institution as a whole, emphasizing the institution's individuality and distinctive quality. The mission, goals, and educational objectives have the understanding and support of executives, faculty, and staff, and steps have been taken to make these widely known on campus and outside of the Junior College, as well.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The Junior College has stipulated a clear admission policy that is in line with educational policies based on the founding principles, and that policy is clearly stated on the Junior College's website, in its entrance examination guidelines, and so on. Given the trend toward shrinking admissions, the applicant selection methods have been diversified, and the Junior College is committed to attracting the interest of prospective students. The Junior College has stipulated a clear curriculum policy in line with educational policies based on its founding principles, and it has broadened the range of elective courses so that students can gain wide learning in the foundation of specialized subjects in their first year, then study specialized subjects in their second year. Faculty and staff collaborate in providing support in such areas as student guidance, career support, and so on. The Junior College has defined clear policies that are in line with educational objectives based on the founding principles, and it makes these publicly available. Its policies on certifying graduation and awarding degrees are stipulated accordingly and are strictly enforced in practice. A variety of support for those seeking employment is provided, including career formation coursework, internships, lectures on employment, student interviews, and so on. Faculty assignments are at a level exceeding the Standards for Establishment of Junior Colleges, and the educational environment of school buildings and other facilities fully satisfy the Standards for Establishment.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The Junior College's incorporated entity calls for compliance with laws in its articles of endowment, and it declares its commitment to management discipline and integrity in order to heighten its autonomy as a private school and to enhance its public character as an educational institution. The Board of Directors holds meetings regularly and also when circumstances require it to deliberate on important matters and make decisions. The directors have a good record of attendance at Board meetings. The Junior College Regulations clearly define the President's authority, and the President's leadership is fully realized. The Junior College is committed to staff development (SD) and implements workshops and other kinds of training to heighten the quality and ability of the staff. The Educational Foundation Bunka Gakuen Business Plan is formulated every year and incorporated in the budget, and plans are being made in particular to redevelop the campus, renovate educational facilities and so on with a view to the hundredth anniversary celebration of the founding of the Junior College's incorporated entity. Accounting procedures are being handled properly on the basis of the Accounting Standards for Incorporated Educational Institutions.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The Future Vision Committee, led by the President, decides the basic policy for self-inspection and evaluation. In light of that policy, each department engaged in examination annually uncovers issues

that are in line with the mission and goals, conducts inspection and evaluation, and carries out improvements and reforms. A Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report has been prepared every year starting with the 2006 academic year and the reports are made available on the Junior College website. The Self-Inspection and Evaluation Reports are arranged in sections on "Current Academic Year Issues," "Results and Inspection and Evaluation of Measures," and "Issues for the Next Academic Year" together with implementation of the PDCA cycle.

In summary, the Junior College is engaging seriously in education, research, and administration, and the morale of faculty and staff as well as the motivation to study on the part of students are both high. The way in which sewing has been elevated from its long-term status as nothing more than a part of housework for the Japanese people to an element of culture imbued with international value under the name of fashion constitutes a major achievement for the Junior College's incorporated entity, including the Junior College. There were some matters that needed to be pointed out in connection with the percentage of total capacity filled, preparation of Faculty Council regulations, and so on. However, these are considered to be issues that the Junior College will certainly be able to overcome by its future efforts.

Note that with regard to the Junior College's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Distinctive education," and "Standard B. Communicating learning achievements outside the Junior College" should be referred to.