

Shijonawate Gakuen University (四條畷学園大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The University's founding principle is "a Feeling of Gratitude" and it sets its educational principles as the practice of "fostering people" Its mission, goals and educational objectives are presented in an easily understood manner on its website and in the Essential Learning Guidebook and student handbooks etc.

The University's founding principles are shared among students and faculty and staff, and in order to nurture medical professionals armed with the latest knowledge, rather than one-directional tuition and practice the University is creating an educational system enabling experience-based and clinical practicals, sophisticated communication skills and high-level education.

In order to attain its missions and goals of sending out into the world excellent medical professionals, the University has established a Faculty of Rehabilitation and Faculty of Nursing, and cites reform targets for education and learning as well as administration in its long-term vision and medium-term plan. It has also formulated and is operating the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The admission policy is clearly stipulated, shown on the University website and in the student application guidelines and made public to all prospective students and the public.

The University incorporates much experience-based learning into its tuition, and is creative and innovative in its class instruction methods, which correspond with the content of the courses taught.

An "office hour" is set for two times a week, which serves as a system for consultation with students.

Evaluation of student achievement is measured using the Grade Point Average (GPA) system, and the results of the GPA are used in student guidance, and the selection of candidates for scholarships and awards upon graduation.

A system for guidance has been developed with regard to social and professional independence within and outside of the educational curriculum, and as a method to improve tuition the faculty members take part in peer tuition observation. The opinion etc. of students are ascertained, analyzed and the results of considerations put to use throughout all aspects of students' day-to-day lives. In response to the particular features of lecture courses, exercise courses and practicals the appropriate numbers of students is coordinated and assignment of faculty conducted.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

The University's articles of endowment and University Regulations stipulate adherence to the School Education Act and so on, while the regulations of the University's incorporated entity are also enacted based upon the prerequisite of compliance with the Standards for Establishment of Universities and laws relating to the establishment and operation of the University.

In line with the University's articles of endowment and its enforcement bylaws, tiered deliberative bodies and decision-making bodies corresponding to the importance of their tasks have been set up, and two auditors have been given the task of auditing the administrative and financial state of the University's incorporated entity.

The President attends the various councils convened by the University, and as there are ample opportunities to directly listen to the opinions of faculty and staff, bottom-up management is being carried out adequately.

In an effort to improve the faculty's quality and ability, a self-improvement incentive scheme has been introduced, and the enthusiastic efforts of faculty and staff to further educate themselves are encouraged.

A long-term vision, medium-term plan and medium-term numeric plan have been formulated, and annual budgets are configured according to the medium-term plan.

A Director of Internal Audits has been posted within the University's incorporated entity

headquarters secretariat, and internal control bolstered.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

Pursuant to University Regulations the state of implementation of the annual business plan is subject to independent and autonomous self-inspection and evaluation at the end of the academic year.

The results of self-inspection and evaluation are displayed on the University website, shared throughout the University via its intranet, as well as between the executive staff of the University and its incorporated entity at the University and University's Incorporated Entity Headquarters Liaison Council, which runs checks on the evaluation results and state of reforms.

A long-term vision and medium-term plan were formulated upon the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the University, and through these and the annually formulated business plan (report) and Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report it is possible to move towards reaching the goals of the medium-term plan in line with a transparent single-year unit PDCA cycle.

In summary, the University's founding principles and mission and goals are clearly stated in the University Regulations in line with the relevant laws. Standards for awarding credits, promotion to the next school year, certifying graduation and completion are clearly shown as per the University Regulations, and stringently implemented. Moreover, educational and financial information are appropriately publicized on the University website and evidence-based self-inspection and evaluation conducted.

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