

Institutional Evaluation Report
Graham International University (GIU)
Self-Evaluation Report for Dual Institutional Accreditation Application
Prepared by: QAHE Accreditation Committee

Introduction

This evaluation report assesses Graham International University (GIU) based on its self-evaluation submission for dual institutional accreditation. The committee aims to provide a thorough analysis of GIU's strengths, accomplishments, and areas for improvement in accordance with QAHE's accreditation standards.

1. Institutional Profile

a. Mission and Vision

Mission Statement:

Graham International University aims to shape the future of international relations through education. By offering programs that focus on diverse cultures and belief systems, GIU seeks to improve diplomatic relationships worldwide. The institution is committed to making its educational offerings accessible through full or partial scholarships to selected countries, including China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Vision Statement:

GIU envisions a globally interconnected society where cultural diversity is celebrated and diplomatic bonds are strengthened. The institution aspires to cultivate global citizens equipped with empathy and cultural understanding, addressing global challenges collaboratively. The vision includes empowering talented individuals through scholarship opportunities, fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

b. History and Background

Founded in 2017 under The Frankie Graham Jr. Foundation, GIU originated to provide affordable educational opportunities in a community with a historically low high school graduation rate. Although the university faced enrollment challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its recent accreditation from QAHE in May 2024 has catalyzed a significant increase in student enrollment, reflecting the institution's resilience and adaptability.

c. Governance and Leadership

GIU operates under a governance structure as a nonprofit organization recognized by the IRS with the tax code 501(c)(3). The leadership is headed by Frankie Lee Graham Jr., whose vision and direction are pivotal in steering the institution towards its mission. The governance model emphasizes accountability, transparency, and stakeholder involvement, ensuring that decisions align with the university's mission and the needs of its constituents.

2. Quality Assurance Mechanisms

a. Internal Quality Assurance

GIU has implemented a comprehensive internal quality assurance framework that encompasses various policies and procedures, focusing on employee responsibilities, attendance, conduct, and customer relations. Key components include:

- **Work Schedule Adherence:** Employees must be aware of their schedules, and any changes must be approved in advance. This promotes accountability and operational efficiency.
- **Attendance and Punctuality Policies:** Clear guidelines on attendance help maintain a professional work environment, with disciplinary measures for excessive absenteeism or tardiness.
- **Conduct Standards:** A code of conduct emphasizes integrity, professionalism, and respect, fostering a positive institutional culture.

b. Quality Enhancement Initiatives

GIU is proactive in enhancing the quality of its educational offerings. Recent initiatives include:

- **Integration of CPA-Recognized Courses:** The introduction of free CPA-recognized courses, "Powered by Alison," enhances the curriculum, offering students valuable certifications.
- **Collaboration with Grammarly:** Engagement with Grammarly aims to improve student writing skills and ensure academic integrity by checking for plagiarism.

These initiatives illustrate GIU's commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness to educational needs.

c. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is crucial for GIU's development. The institution maintains open lines of communication with students through various platforms, including email, WhatsApp, Facebook, LinkedIn, and its Pathwright Learning Management System (LMS). Feedback mechanisms are in place, allowing students to voice their concerns and suggestions, which helps drive improvements in the learning experience. Notable actions based on student feedback include:

- **Enhanced Gamification Features:** Recognizing the desire for more engaging content, GIU is exploring gamification elements in its LMS to boost student interaction and motivation.
 - **Testing New Platforms:** GIU is piloting the Talent LMS with selected students to assess its gamification capabilities, demonstrating an innovative approach to curriculum delivery.
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3. Academic Programs and Curriculum

a. Program Offerings

GIU boasts a diverse array of academic programs across six schools, catering to a broad spectrum of interests and career paths. These include:

- **Graham School of Public Services:** Offers advanced degrees in Public Administration, focusing on various specializations, including Health Policy, Environmental Policy, and Security Management.
- **Graham School of English:** Provides programs centered on International Relations and Global Security.
- **Graham School of Education:** Focuses on Early Childhood Education and Educational Leadership.
- **Richey School of Law:** Offers a comprehensive law curriculum, preparing students for legal careers.
- **Tan School of Business Leadership & Huynh School of Business:** Provides degrees in Business Administration and leadership training.

This extensive curriculum reflects the institution's responsiveness to market demands and student interests.

b. Curriculum Design and Development

The curriculum at GIU is meticulously designed to promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and practical application of knowledge. Each program includes:

- **Clear Learning Outcomes:** Courses are structured with specific learning objectives, ensuring that students understand the expectations and can measure their progress.
- **Interdisciplinary Approaches:** Programs encourage collaboration across disciplines, preparing students for the complexities of real-world challenges.

c. Teaching and Learning Strategies

GIU employs a variety of innovative teaching methodologies, including:

- **Experience-Based Learning:** Practical experiences, such as internships and community projects, are integrated into the curriculum, enhancing student engagement and real-world application of knowledge.
 - **Technology Integration:** The use of advanced technology in the classroom and online platforms supports diverse learning styles and fosters interactive learning environments.
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4. Faculty and Staff

a. Faculty Profile

GIU's faculty comprises highly qualified professionals with significant academic and industry experience. Key highlights include:

- **Diverse Expertise:** Faculty members bring a wide range of knowledge areas, enriching the learning experience for students.
- **Ongoing Professional Development:** Faculty are encouraged to engage in continuous learning, attending workshops and conferences to stay current in their fields.

b. Staff Profile

The administrative staff at GIU plays a vital role in supporting academic programs and ensuring smooth operations. Their responsibilities include:

- **Academic Support:** Staff members assist in curriculum planning and implementation, contributing to the overall quality of education.
 - **Student Services:** Dedicated teams are in place to provide support for enrollment, advising, and other student needs, ensuring a holistic approach to student success.
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5. Areas for Improvement

While GIU demonstrates a strong commitment to its mission and goals, several areas warrant attention:

1. Enrollment Strategies:

- **Broaden Marketing Efforts:** To sustain and grow enrollment, GIU should develop comprehensive marketing strategies that target diverse demographics, including non-traditional students.
- **Partnerships with International Institutions:** Collaborations with foreign universities can enhance visibility and attract international students.

2. Curriculum Review:

- **Regular Assessments:** Establish a systematic curriculum review process to ensure programs remain relevant and aligned with industry standards and student needs.
- **Incorporate Emerging Trends:** Integrate contemporary issues and emerging trends into the curriculum to prepare students for future challenges.

3. Stakeholder Feedback Mechanisms:

- **Structured Feedback Sessions:** Implement regular feedback sessions with students and alumni to gather insights on their experiences and suggestions for improvement.
- **Alumni Engagement:** Establish an alumni network to facilitate ongoing communication and mentorship opportunities for current students.

4. Resource Allocation:

- **Evaluate Faculty-to-Student Ratios:** Regular assessments of faculty workloads and student enrollment numbers can help maintain optimal learning environments.

- **Investment in Technology:** Ensure that technological resources are sufficient and up-to-date to support innovative teaching methods and student learning.
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Conclusion

Graham International University exhibits a strong commitment to its mission of fostering international relations through education. The institution's governance, quality assurance mechanisms, and extensive academic offerings align well with QAHE's accreditation standards. However, addressing the identified areas for improvement will be essential for GIU's continued success and growth in a competitive educational landscape.

Recommendations

1. **Enhance Recruitment Strategies:** Develop targeted marketing campaigns and partnerships to attract diverse student populations.
 2. **Implement Regular Curriculum Assessments:** Establish a systematic review process to ensure academic programs remain relevant and aligned with industry standards.
 3. **Strengthen Feedback Mechanisms:** Introduce structured feedback sessions and enhance alumni engagement for continuous improvement.
 4. **Evaluate Resource Allocation:** Regularly assess resource needs to support faculty and student requirements effectively.
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This comprehensive evaluation report serves as a critical assessment of Graham International University, providing insights and actionable recommendations to support the institution's ongoing improvement and alignment with QAHE accreditation standards. The QAHE Accreditation Committee looks forward to working collaboratively with GIU as it implements these recommendations for enhanced educational excellence.