

# Musashino INITIAL

Diploma Policy(DP)	Curriculum Policy(CP)
<p>The "Musashino INITIAL" is a set of subjects that all students entering Musashino University should commonly study as the foundation of their learning at the university. Its goals include understanding the founding spirit of Musashino University, cultivating the academic abilities and insights that form the basis of study in their respective faculties and departments, and acquiring a broad range of cultural knowledge to thrive in society.</p>	<p>At Musashino University, we systematically organize and implement educational programs based on the following policies to ensure that the requirements outlined in the Diploma Policy of "Musashino INITIAL" are met.</p>
<p><b>1 Knowledge and Expertise: [Specialized Abilities Built on the Foundation of Learning Fundamentals]</b></p>	
<p>a. Being able to sustain the motivation to actively acquire knowledge and cultivate a broad range of knowledge on one's own initiative. [Academic Literacy and Fundamental Skills]</p> <p>b. Being able to gather required information from various sources. [Academic Literacy and Fundamental Skills]</p> <p>c. Being able to contextualize the knowledge and skills to be learned in one's affiliated department or discipline within a broad social context. [Academic Literacy and Fundamental Skills]</p>	<p>[Buddhist Studies] In "Introduction to Buddhism," students acquire fundamental knowledge about the life of our university's founder, Jun'jiro Takakusu, and his educational philosophy. Additionally, they gain basic knowledge about the life and teachings of the founder of Buddhism, Shakyamuni Buddha. In "Studies on Buddhism," students will have the opportunity to consider the potential of Buddhist philosophy to contribute to resolving various challenges facing contemporary society, and to engage in multifaceted discussions about the significance of Buddhist philosophy.</p> <p>[Health and Physical Education] Through engaging in physical activities, students will develop an understanding of bodily movements and learn methods to create better physical and mental states. In the field of physical training, opportunities will be provided to learn about the mechanisms of muscular strength enhancement in the human body. In practices such as yoga and Zen meditation, students will learn specialized knowledge about breathing techniques, postures, and body mechanics essential for exercise. In sports science, students will enhance their ability to master more advanced movements by understanding the characteristics of sports. Additionally, efforts will be made to deepen understanding of sports culture.</p> <p>[Informatics] (1) We will provide opportunities to understand the trends in cutting-edge information technology (IT) and societal changes, enabling students to learn essential knowledge of data science and artificial intelligence (AI) necessary for understanding and utilizing them. (2) Students will have the opportunity to utilize cutting-edge analysis tools and AI libraries used in the real world, using their own BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environment. (3) By utilizing top-tier information sources on advanced technology and listening to the voices of pioneers in AI utilization both within and outside the university, students will acquire knowledge about the rapidly evolving technology.</p> <p>[Japanese and Japanese Culture] This course is designed for international students to comprehensively acquire the Japanese language skills necessary to pursue academic studies in the department or faculty to which they belong. Students will acquire more advanced Japanese language skills such as gathering information in Japanese and writing reports.</p> <p>[Academic Skills] Students will acquire the ability to write reports on social issues of interest to them in their first year of study as a basis for advancing their academic studies in their department or faculty.</p> <p>[Foreign Languages] Regardless of the foreign language being studied, the basic principle of language learning is to acquire the ability to understand and utilize various grammar rules, and to strive for pronunciation as close to native as possible. As students deepen their specialization, they need to enrich their vocabulary, actively absorb information through both visual and auditory channels, develop the ability to understand the meaning of information, and improve their speaking manner. To achieve these skills, we will provide opportunities for learning tailored to individual proficiency levels using appropriate teaching materials.</p> <p>[CHP (SDGs)] (1) We will ensure that students achieve a deeper understanding of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015, including an overview understanding of their 169 targets, surpassing the level of understanding typically found at the high school level. (2) In addition to materials presented in class, including textbooks on SDGs, students will learn how to gather reliable information from various sources, including English literature, to broaden their understanding of the SDGs.</p> <p>[Field Studies] (1) Through interaction and collaboration with local communities and groups during extracurricular study activities, students will develop the ability to gather necessary information. (2) By focusing on various social issues and linking them to their own fields of expertise, students will acquire the ability to raise questions and work toward solutions.</p> <p>[Musashino Liberal Arts Courses] (1) The course is divided into the six fields of "Thought and Arts," "International and Area Studies," "Society and Institutions," "Human Beings and the Environment," "Matter and Life," and "Mathematical and Information Sciences." Students will be exposed to the basic knowledge of their own department or faculty. (2) To develop a foundation for tackling advanced and interdisciplinary research issues from a cross-border and cross-sectoral perspective with regard to the content of specialized studies in the faculty or department to which the student belongs. (3) To help students acquire a perspective that relates their field of specialization to the various issues of contemporary society.</p> <p>[Career Development Course] Students will develop the ability to gather information necessary to expand their future possibilities. In "Career Design A" (a certified course based on achievements), students will learn how to research companies and gain perspectives for collecting corporate information. Regardless of the career path they choose, as professionals in society, individuals will inevitably interact with companies in some form. By understanding companies, students will gain insights into society and be able to position the knowledge and skills they should learn in their respective faculties and departments from a career perspective.</p>
<p><b>2 Interest, Attitude, and Personality: [The ability to understand oneself and others, and to take initiative voluntarily.]</b></p>	
<p>a. Having cultivated an attitude of deep understanding of the Buddhist spirit expressed in the Four Great Vows and constantly striving to enhance one's own character. [Formation of Character and Sense of Mission]</p> <p>b. Having a broad interest in societal issues and being able to identify challenges that one should address proactively. [Ability to Identify Challenges]</p> <p>c. Being able to understand and respect different cultures and values. [Self-awareness and Understanding of Others]</p>	<p>[Buddhist Studies] Studying and deepening one's understanding of compassion in Buddhism is not only about acquiring knowledge about compassion but also about becoming a person who embodies compassion. In other words, the idea is to become what one learns through study, to approach it. In "Introduction to Buddhism," we ensure that students acquire this fundamental attitude of learning Buddhism, and in "Studies on Buddhism," we provide opportunities for students to learn how compassion manifests in real-life situations in society.</p> <p>[Health and Physical Education] We will ensure that students understand how mental and psychological aspects such as "emotional richness," "concentration," "patience," "tolerance," and "cooperation" are cultivated through physical activity. Additionally, we will help students understand the concept of personal and interpersonal boundaries that come with physical activity. In the field of physical training, we aim to cultivate students' interest in their own bodies and deepen their self-awareness in physical activities. In sports science, we will foster a spirit of challenge and a proactive attitude towards acquiring skills (techniques), not only for improving physical fitness but also for skill acquisition.</p> <p>[Informatics] (1) We will enable students to choose the most appropriate analytical methods and application techniques by approaching the task of solving problems from the perspective of transforming user experience (UX). (2) We will foster a community of shared interests where individuals can understand differences in perspectives among others through discussions and mutual evaluations of proposed solutions and strive towards better solutions through mutual improvement. (3) Students will set their own themes, present compiled proposals through project activities to experts both within and outside the university, and broaden their horizons by receiving feedback.</p> <p>[Japanese and Japanese Culture] In classes with international students from various backgrounds, students will learn the appropriate language behavior they should acquire as international students and how to be aware of problems they need to solve in their university studies.</p> <p>[Academic Skills] Students will develop the ability to think deeply about what society and themselves should be as university students, as well as the insight to propose measures for the betterment of society and themselves, and the attitude to accept differences in values.</p> <p>[Foreign Languages] Learning a foreign language is not merely about memorizing symbols. Each language has a rich history behind its formation, and through language learning, one directly confronts the values of the people who use that language, such as their perceptions of good and evil, beauty and ugliness, and likes and dislikes. It goes without saying that language is an essential tool in social life, but beyond that, we aim to foster respect and interest in the cultural backgrounds of others, while deepening understanding of one's own cultural group.</p> <p>[CHP (SDGs)] (1) We will ensure that students understand the social issues targeted by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their solutions, in relation to the founding spirit of "sincerely seeking not only one's own happiness but also the happiness of others" and the university's brand statement of "shaping the happiness of the world." (2) We will establish a foundation for addressing various issues that students will tackle both in their specialized fields of study within their faculties and as professionals in society in the future.</p> <p>[Field Studies] Through engaging in extracurricular studies outside the university, we will provide opportunities for students to personally experience the mechanisms and operations of society, fostering attitudes necessary for living as professionals in society. Students will learn social norms and rules applicable in society through firsthand experience, ensuring they are prepared for university studies. By offering opportunities to stay in regions outside the Tokyo area or abroad, students will have the chance to encounter different cultures, lifestyles, and values.</p> <p>[Musashino Liberal Arts Courses] (1) Students will gain a broad perspective on what kinds of intellectual interests and attitudes are involved in intellectual pursuits in the six fields of "Thought and Arts," "International and Area Studies," "Society and Institutions," "Human Beings and the Environment," "Matter and Life," and "Mathematical and Information Sciences." (2) The course is designed to help students acquire an attitude to tackle various problems that they are required to be aware of when studying the specialized fields of the Faculty, as well as various social issues that they will have to deal with after becoming a member of society.</p> <p>[Career Development Course] We will encourage students to take a broad interest in societal issues and deepen their understanding of the companies and organizations addressing these problems. In "Career Design B" (certified subjects based on achievements), we will facilitate a voluntary deepening of understanding by utilizing opportunities such as work experiences outside the university. Students will not only deepen their understanding of various jobs existing in society and the societal issues addressed therein but also relate these experiences to their career planning process, ensuring that the experiences are not merely incidental but integrated into their career considerations.</p>

3 Critical Thinking and Decision-making: [The ability to perceive issues from multiple perspectives and think creatively.]	
<p>a. Possessing the ability to exercise discernment regarding reliable and accurate information. [Analytical and Judgmental Skills]</p> <p>b. Having the ability to think critically about acquired information. [Logical Thinking and Judgmental Skills]</p> <p>c. Being able to pose questions oneself about challenging issues. [Analytical Skills, Critical Thinking, Creativity]</p>	<p>[Buddhist Studies] The intellectual endeavor of applying insights from Buddhist studies, a product of classical literature, to address the various challenges confronting contemporary society involves multifaceted and creative thinking. Therefore, in "Introduction to Buddhism," we will ensure that students accurately acquire reliable knowledge in the field of Buddhist studies. In "Studies on Buddhism," we will cultivate the ability to apply acquired information to real-world challenges, thereby fostering practical skills.</p> <p>[Health and Physical Education] We will help individuals recognize what movements they lack and work through practice to overcome these deficiencies. Additionally, we will enable them to observe the superior movements of others to improve their actions. In physical activities, the ability to "observe" is crucial as it leads to the refinement of analytical skills. We will foster foundational abilities for individuals to think critically about the efficiency and effectiveness of movements and creatively assemble their body movements.</p> <p>[Informatics] (1) We will provide opportunities for individuals to analyze vast amounts of real data from various perspectives using foundational knowledge and analytical tools they have learned, not synthetic data. (2) By formulating hypotheses from the analysis results and repeatedly testing and revising these hypotheses, we will cultivate the ability to creatively derive optimal solutions to challenges. (3) Individuals will systematically and practically acquire methods to elevate their devised ideas to the standards of services applicable in the real world and organize them into logical and persuasive proposals.</p> <p>[Japanese and Japanese Culture] This course is designed to help students develop the ability to gather information in Japanese that is relevant to the content of their undergraduate studies, the ability to think in order to formulate arguments, and the ability to reflect these in their written and oral expression.</p> <p>[Academic Skills] Through report writing, students will acquire the ability to distinguish between reliable and unreliable information. Students will be able to structure their reports in a way that conveys their awareness of the issues to the reader after appropriately interpreting and considering the information obtained.</p> <p>[Foreign Languages] It is important to obtain information from foreign sources through television and the internet, but by learning a foreign language, individuals can acquire the ability to obtain primary sources independently and understand them without relying on others' interpretations. We will provide a curriculum that fosters such abilities. Additionally, through foreign language learning, we will facilitate interactions with various people, broaden perspectives, and expose individuals to different ways of thinking. We will encourage individuals not to dismiss differing perspectives too easily and to deeply contemplate why people from other countries make different judgments.</p> <p>[CHP (SDGs)] (1) Through designated textbooks and classes, we will develop the ability to appropriately understand presented materials and discern true information. (2) Based on collected data and information, we will foster the ability to analyze the target issues independently and discern their essence. (3) We will cultivate the ability to clarify areas one can engage with independently and develop concrete pathways to address them.</p> <p>[Field Studies] Through fieldwork in local areas and conducting interviews with community members, we will develop the ability to analyze collected data and information, enabling us to discern their essence.</p> <p>[Musashino Liberal Arts Courses] (1) To enable students to learn what issues and characteristic ways of thinking are found in the six fields of "Thought and Arts," "International and Area Studies," "Society and Institutions," "Human Beings and the Environment," "Matter and Life," and "Mathematical and Information Sciences." (2) To cultivate the ability to discern reliable information from a variety of information sources. (3) Cultivate the ability to analyze the subject matter from multiple perspectives and in a comprehensive manner, and to think critically.</p> <p>[Career Development Course] We aim to enable students to pose their own questions about social issues and devise concrete solutions. In "Career Design C, D, E" (certified courses based on outcomes), students will work with members from different departments and academic years to compile proposals addressing social issues. Through this process, students will develop the ability to think and analyze issues from various perspectives based on the knowledge of each member. We will help students expand their career options by connecting the new perspectives gained through these efforts to explore their future possibilities.</p>
4 Interpersonal Skills and Communication Skills: [The ability to express and communicate one's ideas among diverse groups of people.]	
<p>a. Being able to recognize the value of engaging in dialogue with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. [Communication Skills]</p> <p>b. Being able to reflect on one's position in society. [Communication Skills]</p> <p>c. Possessing the comprehension and expression skills required in communication. [Communication Skills, Linguistic Abilities]</p>	<p>[Buddhist Studies] Many expressions and discourses related to Buddhism have been transmitted in archaic Chinese characters, making it essential to reposition and reinterpret their meanings within the context of modern language. This endeavor itself cultivates a high level of linguistic and communicative proficiency. Moreover, effectively communicating Buddhist discourses to people with diverse cultural backgrounds requires even more advanced skills. In both "Introduction to Buddhism" and "Studies on Buddhism," we provide opportunities not only for acquiring knowledge but also for honing the ability to communicate in one's own words.</p> <p>[Health and Physical Education] We provide opportunities for optimizing body movements and enhancing physical performance through the mastery of correct posture, and breathing techniques, overcoming weaknesses in movements, and improving muscle strength. Additionally, we facilitate the enhancement of skills specific to sports. We also ensure that communication skills are improved through sports participation.</p> <p>[Informatics] (1) We will promote project activities involving various stakeholders to create persuasive proposal materials by effectively visualizing analysis results using graphs and charts. (2) We aim to develop the ability to realize prototypes of services as functional programs, going beyond mere explanation of proposals. (3) With an understanding of ethical issues in information, we will develop advanced media expression skills, including AI-generated content and 3D content. Additionally, we will ensure that these skills can be showcased as part of students' learning portfolios.</p> <p>[Japanese and Japanese Culture] This course is designed to help students develop the ability to gather information in Japanese that is relevant to the content of their undergraduate studies, the ability to think in order to formulate arguments, and the ability to reflect these in their written and oral expression.</p> <p>[Academic Skills] Through report writing, students will acquire the ability to distinguish between reliable and unreliable information. Students will be able to structure their reports in a way that conveys their awareness of the issues to the reader after appropriately interpreting and considering the information obtained.</p> <p>[Foreign Languages] It is important to respect others' opinions, provided that certain rules are followed mutually. Similarly, one's own opinions should also be equally respected. With the premise of continuous improvement, we provide opportunities to develop an attitude that allows individuals to express their views to foreigners without hesitation. Communicating one's opinions in a foreign language requires a high level of linguistic proficiency. Therefore, we aim to cultivate a motivation to acquire linguistic skills that leave no regrets and ensure understanding of the interlocutor's intentions.</p> <p>[CHP(SDGs)] (1) We will develop the ability to understand the situations and cultures of various foreign countries different from our own, and to relativize our own country and its culture. (2) We will foster the ability to logically organize and persuasively explain things, enabling communication and dissemination beyond the differences of countries and cultures. (3) We will ensure the foundation of communication skills and presentation skills essential for cooperation beyond the differences of countries and cultures.</p> <p>[Field Studies] (1) We aim to cultivate a perspective that understands the situations and cultures of foreign countries and regions, allowing individuals to relativize their own culture with that of others. (2) We strive to develop an adaptable and flexible attitude that enables effective communication beyond the cultural differences with foreign countries and regions.</p> <p>[Musashino Liberal Arts Courses] (1) To enable students to learn what issues and characteristic ways of thinking are found in the six fields of "Thought and Arts," "International and Area Studies," "Society and Institutions," "Human Beings and the Environment," "Matter and Life," and "Mathematical and Information Sciences." (2) To cultivate the ability to discern reliable information from a variety of information sources. (3) Cultivate the ability to analyze the subject matter from multiple perspectives and in a comprehensive manner, and to think critically.</p> <p>[Career Development Course] We aim to foster an understanding of how one's career is situated within the social context. Particularly in "Internships" and "Collaborative Projects with Companies," students will engage in work experiences and problem-solving tasks within companies or organizations. Through interactions with others, students will learn to express their ideas and provide appropriate responses, thereby developing effective communication skills. Opportunities will be provided to realize that social manners in communication demonstrate respect for others and can be factors that encourage others to listen to one's ideas attentively.</p>