

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

The University of Shimane Junior College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Shimane, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2025	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2033)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the University of Shimane Junior College

Overview

The University of Shimane Junior College (hereinafter, the “Junior College”) consists of two departments: the Department of Nursery Education and the Department of Culture and Information Studies. Both departments are characterized by their strong emphasis on fostering human resources who contribute to regional development through learning both on campus and off, and by their active incorporation of experiential learning tied to the region. In addition, the Junior College offers learning opportunities leading to expressive activities and the creation of concrete outputs, thereby contributing to regional development as a higher education and research institution firmly rooted in the region.

With regard to internal quality assurance, the Junior College stipulates its purpose, organization, procedures, and other matters in its school regulations, the “University of Shimane Junior College Self-Review Committee Regulations” and the “University of Shimane Junior College Internal Quality Assurance Policy” (hereinafter, the “Internal Quality Assurance Policy”). Following the previous Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior Colleges, the Junior College reviewed its internal quality assurance system, which led to the establishment of the “Self-Review Committee” chaired by the president as the organization responsible for internal quality assurance, and the “Working Group for Self-Review,” with the vice president serving as the chief of the organization responsible for conducting self-studies. In addition, the Junior College has established 12 specialized committees, including the Academic Affairs Committee, under the Working Group for Self-Review, and carefully collects opinions from the front line by conducting hearings aimed at reviewing its programs and operations and promoting their improvement and enhancement.

With respect to teaching and learning, the Junior College has established an institution-wide degree award policy (diploma policy) based on the purpose and educational-research objectives of the Junior College. To enable students to acquire the learning outcomes set out in the degree award policy (diploma policy), each department prepares “learning concept maps (curriculum maps)” and “lists of courses offered” in accordance with the curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy) for students to clearly recognize their own learning progress. In addition, the Junior

College prepares “Major Course–Diploma Policy Correspondence Tables” to clearly indicate which learning goals in the degree award policy each major course corresponds to. Learning outcomes achieved through education are evaluated by combining common assessment methods across departments and department-specific methods, in accordance with the Internal Quality Assurance Policy, and the results are utilized for reviewing the curriculum and teaching methods. Furthermore, each department and the Academic Affairs Committee conduct self-studies using the “Self-Study Sheet for Education under the Management of Teaching and Learning” (hereinafter, the “Self-Study Sheet”), report the results to the Working Group for Self-Review, and work toward improvement and enhancement for the following academic year and beyond.

The Junior College’s notable strengths lie in “Student Support,” “Education and Research Environment,” and “Social Cooperation and Contribution.” In Student Support, seminar instructors, school nurses, and counselors collaborate to provide meticulous assistance. Through parent-teacher conferences, the Junior College builds a relationship of trust with parents and shares information on students’ career paths, learning progress, and mental well-being. It also offers individualized support for students with learning difficulties or disabilities. The almost zero dropout rate clearly demonstrates the strength of the Junior College’s student support system. In Education and Research Environment, the Junior College has created comfortable learning spaces such as the “Ororin Hiroba” student lounge. In Social Cooperation and Contribution, both departments are commended for actively engaging in education that contributes to the region, not only through regular classes but also events and volunteer activities. In research activities as well, the number of projects and studies related to regional contribution in the Matsue area alone far exceeds the mid-term targets. Furthermore, the Junior College publishes “Regional Research and Education,” which introduces its research and educational activities rooted in the region, thereby disseminating this information throughout the prefecture. From the above, the Junior College contributes to solving regional issues and promoting regional development.

One area for future consideration is that, while the Junior College clearly links its major courses to the degree award policy through the “Major Course–Diploma Policy Correspondence Tables,” it has not done so for other courses. It is desirable to extend this linkage to non-major courses as well and to make the connection explicit in the syllabi. The Junior College is expected to achieve further development through these improvements.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- Seminar instructors play a central role in providing appropriate support by identifying issues at an early stage through consultations on students' daily lives and other matters. In particular, parent-teacher conferences provide opportunities to discuss students' career paths, research themes, and other matters, thereby fostering mutual understanding among students, parents, and the Junior College. The Junior College also provides support for students with disabilities as well as a comprehensive support system for students' health and psychological well-being, thereby ensuring an environment in which students from diverse backgrounds can learn with peace of mind. By continuously developing its meticulous support system that nurtures the growth of each individual student, the Junior College has achieved high levels of student satisfaction with campus life and almost no dropouts, clearly demonstrating the effectiveness of its student support system.

Education and Research Environment

- With regard to improving the student learning environment, the Junior College has established the "Ororin Hiroba" as a student lounge to promote interactions among students and encourage club and volunteer activities; areas can also be partitioned for independent study. In addition, lounges and study spaces are set up in other buildings to enhance the learning environment across the entire campus. The newly built library also includes a reference desk to support students writing papers and reports. Through these efforts to create an environment that motivates student learning and to strengthen the support system, the Junior College continues to make improvements and enhancements, an approach that is commendable.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Since 1993, the Junior College has offered the Camellia Road Academy open lecture series, which features a wide variety of programs designed for participants across a broad range of age groups. These programs include mock classes for high school students, language courses for the general public, and hands-on experiential workshops for parents and children. Reports on these activities are published on the Junior College's website. In addition, students are actively engaged in regional

contribution activities that draw on the specialized fields of each department. For example, students in the Department of Nursery Education take the lead in planning and organizing child-oriented events. The Junior College also annually publishes “Regional Research and Education,” which provides detailed accounts of faculty research focused on the region as well as educational activities conducted in collaboration with the region, thereby further enhancing its information dissemination. These proactive initiatives are commendable as they serve to realize the Junior College’s mission and contribute to strengthening the mechanisms for returning its intellectual resources to the local community.