

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for
Professional Graduate Business School**

**Graduate School of Business Administration,
The University of Kitakyushu**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Fukuoka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2025	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2031)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Graduate School of Business Administration, The University of Kitakyushu

The University of Kitakyushu Graduate School of Business Administration (hereinafter, “K2BS”) defines its purpose as nurturing top-level professionals who possess a broad knowledge base, comprehensive problem-solving skills, strong ethical values, and a global outlook, and who can lead their communities by driving innovative business creation and organizational transformation across the various fields in which for-profit and nonprofit organizations operate. Based on this purpose, K2BS has developed a medium-term vision “to train leaders who help create sustainable local communities,” along with four detailed objectives that are linked to its strategies. These objectives include (a) promoting creative integration of knowledge accumulated in K2BS and local communities; (b) passing on local business management expertise to the next generation and cultivating talent for creating new industries; (c) developing innovative non-profit management professionals; and (d) building a comprehensive industry support network to facilitate the start-up of new enterprises.

K2BS aims to achieve its purpose by delivering an educational program structured around the two pillars of business domain and public domain, with classes held on the Kokura Satellite Campus mainly on weeknights and the Kitagata Campus mostly during daytime on Saturdays. Both campuses are located in Fukuoka Prefecture. With its curriculum restructured in AY2024, the educational program now offers one specialty/area of concentration through a curriculum featuring basic, advanced, executive (specialized and applied), and project research (practical) courses. The curriculum is designed to support progressive learning by allowing students to plan their academic pathway according to their desired domain of study based on the six suggested course sequence models and academic advice from faculty members. Students earning the required number of credits and acquiring the knowledge and skills set out in the diploma policy are awarded the Master of Business Administration degree.

One distinctive feature of the educational program is the educational opportunities drawing on the historical background of Kitakyushu City, characterized by close cooperation between the public and private sectors in addressing social problems and the activities leveraging region-specific strengths. These opportunities include week-long overseas training programs, mainly in Chinese-speaking countries and regions, fieldwork projects in local communities and the wider northern Kyushu region, and distance

learning, and are integrated into the curriculum to provide practical learning experiences.

The strategies to increase student enrollment, such as strengthening its public relations activities and opening admissions for corporate-sponsored or corporate-recommended candidates, are beginning to show positive results. In contrast to most academic years in the past when achieving full enrollment was a struggle, the number of new entrants for AY2025 totaled 32, exceeding the admission capacity of 30. Full enrollment is expected to continue in AY2026 as well.

As described below, there are a number of areas of improvement that K2BS should address.

The medium-term vision, developed independently of the broader University of Kitakyushu system, fails to align naturally or effectively with the University's fourth medium-term goals and medium-term plan. To support the formulation of the Business School's tactics and strategies in the future and to boost its public relations activities, K2BS is advised to explore ways to develop a more coordinated outreach strategy in cooperation with university-wide organizations.

The curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy) should also be reviewed to address such problems as the vague connection between the policy and the course sequence models, the need to reduce faculty workloads, and the disproportionate number of courses relative to enrollment capacity. The policy should be reconsidered with a view to simplifying and streamlining the course sequence models and the course classifications.

With regard to the assessment of student academic achievement, despite the use of an absolute grading system, the distribution of grades is skewed towards grade "A" in a majority of courses. The basis for the percentage of grade "S" in a class is shared and peer-reviewed at Faculty Development (FD) training sessions and other meetings attended by associate and adjunct faculty members as well as full-time permanent teachers, and communicated to all faculty members at the end of each term. A similar mechanism to systematically evaluate the appropriateness of the distribution of grades and to make corrections as needed should be introduced for grades "A" through "D" as well.

As for faculty workload, the teaching commitment in the Business School is set equally for all teachers at five courses. Some teachers, however, are burdened with an extremely heavy workload due to their teaching commitments in the University's undergraduate programs and the doctorate program in the Graduate School of Social System Studies. To maintain the quality of teaching and research activities into the future, H2BS should liaise with university-wide organizations to coordinate workload assignments, with consideration given to each teacher's workload across the

undergraduate and graduate programs, and aim to achieve a balanced distribution of workloads in the medium term.

To address the above issues, it is advised that K2BS utilize the results of this Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate Business Schools and continue its self-study efforts for improvement. Going forward, the Business School is expected to assure and enhance the quality of education and strive to further develop its unique features.