

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Kushiro Public University of Economics



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Hokkaido, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kushiro Public University of Economics

Overview

Kushiro Public University of Economics (hereafter, the University) was founded in 1988 by the union of 10 local governments in the Kushiro area. It was set up as a single faculty university with the Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics. Later, the Department of Business Administration was added in 1996, resulting in the present organization of one faculty and two departments. With its campus in Kushiro City in Hokkaido, the University conducts education and research activities based on its founding principles of community-oriented approach, international outlook and balance between theory and practice.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the University has been formulating its degree award policy, curriculum policy, admission policy and various other policies regarding the operations of the university and undertaking reforms and improvements in a wide range of areas. It carried out immediate improvements in areas regarding which it received suggestion in the previous review, such as providing learning support for low-scoring students, creating sequences and systems in specialized subjects, using a uniform syllabus format, building a mechanism to prevent harassment and establishing a training system for administrative staff. Moreover, it has also undertaken new initiatives, such as systematic training of faculty by establishing a permanent FD committee, introduction of new curriculum and GPA system, and setting up a career center.

Of the various initiatives started by the University, the efforts of its Research Center for Regional Economics to collaborate with and contribute to society are commendable for its special nature. The University has built this center as a research network base for internal and external researchers, and the center has developed enough to contribute to integrating its research outcomes in policy matters of local governments.

On the other hand, the University needs to work further on implementing periodic self-study and creating as well as executing an internal quality assurance system. The University is expected to build a continuous self-study system and leverage its special characteristics for making further improvements.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Joint Research Project being conducted by the Research Center for Regional Economics focuses on community-based research in collaboration with local governments and other external organizations. Apart from actively spreading information about the research outcomes, the Center also supports their integration in regional policies by organizing reporting sessions or making presentations to the Kushiro city administration. Furthermore, the project also aids human resource development in the region through its visiting researcher system of inviting participation from many people belonging to public and private sectors. This project is commendable as an effort toward realizing the University's founding principle of community-oriented approach.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the University is carrying out self-study under a self-study committee as required by regulations, its efforts are limited to the suggestions made by the accreditation review and the university as whole cannot be said to have been carrying out periodic self-study. It should conduct periodic self-study and create as well as implement an internal quality assurance system to connect the results to future improvements.