

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

Prefectural University of Kumamoto



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Kumamoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Prefectural University of Kumamoto

Overview

Prefectural University of Kumamoto sets forth “Gearing for Synthesis,” “Promising Localization,” and “Promoting Internationalization” as its educational principles, and the purposes of the undergraduate and graduate schools as well as the educational objectives of each faculty and graduate school are based on these principles. The University has formulated a medium-term plan to achieve the medium-term goals set by Kumamoto Prefecture, which established the University. The medium-term plan during the FY2018-FY2023 period focuses on “promoting education and research to enhance international perspectives and awareness,” “promoting education and research to establish wide-ranging collaboration with the local community,” and “responding to the needs of society and the times.” In light of these key goals, the University strives to realize its principles and purposes.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the University has adopted the Basic Self-Assessment Policy to conduct self-study of its activities in terms of the medium-term and annual plans as well as JUAA’s evaluation criteria, before undergoing evaluation by external agencies. The self-study process is led by the Self-Assessment Committee, while the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee has been established as an organization to verify the appropriateness of various educational quality assurance initiatives based on the self-study results. In these ways, a university-wide system responsible for promoting internal quality assurance is in place and functioning effectively.

In terms of education, the University has established diploma and curriculum policies for each degree to be awarded based on its principles and purposes, and the curricula are systematically designed with subjects appropriate for each degree program. The Moyaist Development System in particular has been created to embody the University’s slogan of “Think Globally, Act Locally,” and features the ongoing Moyaist Development Program for undergraduate students and the newly launched Moyaist Global Program. It is highly commendable that the University is further developing these distinctive human resource development programs.

In addition, the University has undertaken outstanding student support initiatives. The Prefectural University of Kumamoto Food and Nutrition Education

Vision was developed as part of the ongoing food and nutrition education activities, and the cross-faculty student group “Tabe Lab (Table Laboratory)” was created with the aim of improving dietary and lifestyle habits, and disseminating information to increase the interest in food among students and local communities. The group plays a leading role in raising the awareness of food and health, both on campus and off, and promoting solutions to community challenges related to human resource development and food.

As for social cooperation and contribution, the University operates the Reconstruction and Revitalization Project for Disaster Areas to provide assistance in areas along the Kuma River heavily flooded by torrential rains in July 2020. In addition, the University is promoting the Watershed Disaster Resilience project aimed at achieving sustainable regional revitalization. These efforts are highly commendable as they are expected to develop further to realize the University’s principle of “Promising Localization.”

However, the University should improve the low ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in some graduate schools.

In the years ahead, the University is expected to improve the quality of its education and research through internal quality assurance efforts while advancing its numerous distinctive initiatives, thereby making further progress toward realizing its principles.

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- To realize the principle of “Promising Localization,” the University has undertaken the Moyaist Development Program aimed at developing key human resources for regional revitalization by addressing various challenges in collaboration with local residents. In FY2020, the Moyaist Global Program was launched in line with the principle of “Promoting Internationalization.” The new program aims to nurture students who can play active roles on the global stage through overseas study and internships, and return positive outcomes to the community. With program eligibility requiring certain scores on language proficiency tests administered by external organizations, this requirement helps raise the applicants’ motivation to study English. It is commendable that the University strives to constantly develop the Moyaist Development System and

embody the principle of “Promoting Internationalization” through education.

Student Support

- The University has long been involved in food and nutrition education activities. In FY2018, the University newly developed the Prefectural University of Kumamoto Food and Nutrition Education Vision to improve students’ dietary habits, and the cross-faculty student group Tabe Lab (Table Laboratory) was created under the Section for Food & Nutrition Education. In charge of planning and management, students distribute recipe videos and hold lectures on food stockpiling. It is commendable that these efforts are expected to help students improve their dietary and lifestyle habits as well as promote solutions to food and health issues in the community in the future.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University has undertaken the Reconstruction and Revitalization Project for Disaster Areas in cooperation with municipalities in Kumamoto Prefecture affected by the July 2020 torrential rains. The University is designing temporary housing units, conducting on-site surveys, and participating in volunteer activities through seminars in different faculties and student volunteer projects. The University is also involved in regional revitalization, community engagement, and disaster prevention activities using the advanced research outcomes of its faculty members. For example, in flood damaged areas along the Kuma River, the University is implementing the Watershed Disaster Resilience measure to contribute to sustainable regional development and environmental conservation. It is commendable that the University is utilizing its resources to return the outcomes of its educational and research activities to the local community in cooperation with municipalities and businesses, in line with the principle of “Promising Localization.”

Suggestions for Improvement

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.45 in

the Master's Degree Program of the Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences, 0.40 in the Master's Degree Program of the Graduate School of Administrative Studies, and 0.25 in the Doctoral Degree Program of the Graduate School of Administrative Studies. These ratios should be improved with the graduate schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.