University Accreditation Results

(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Niigata Institue of Technology

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021 Accreditation Status: accredited （Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029）	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Niigata Institute of Technology

Overview

Niigata Institute of Technology stipulates its basic principle as being a unique educational institution, open to society, to contribute to Niigata-based industries through industry and university collaboration, with the strong will of Niigata-based companies to foster engineers who will lead the development of the region. Students, faculty, and staff members are made aware of the mission of the Institute, "to foster creative people who are capable of tackling issues in unexplored fields through our engineering education focused on manufacturing" and the three policies of degree award policy (diploma policy), curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy), and accepting new students (admission policy) through seminars, guidance sessions, and on the website.

The 20th anniversary in AY2015 of the Institute's founding served as an opportunity to be the second opening of the school and for educational reform, mainly by way of reorganizing the departments. With the formulation of the third mid-term management plan (AY2018–AY2020) and the proposed fourth mid-term management plan (AY2021–AY2023), the fields in the Department of Engineering are planned to be newly organized for AY2022.

Educational reform through the formation of two loops for improvement based on visualization of learning outcomes, which was selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as the 2014 Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding: AP, is conducted with the achievement level self-evaluation system, a system to visualize learning outcomes, made from one improvement loop for educational management and another for student learning. After completion of this operation and in connection to this learning system, efforts moved on to the formulation of an assessment policy for the assessment and improvement of education in a multifaceted and comprehensive manner based on the three policies.

"Spatial Design Practice" is extracurricular education in which students themselves design and create space for exchange among students, faculty, and staff members. It is an on-campus project between local companies and students that can be commended as an initiative following the basic principle of the Institute. Learning support through interviews of all graduate school students by the vice president can

also be commended as an initiative contributing to the improvement of education and research in the graduate school.

The Wind and Fluid Engineering Research Center, which was selected as a "Private University Research Branding Project" in AY2017, has been developed and passed on as a research facility positioned at the core of the Institute and is being utilized in making a social contribution to the community. The promotion of activities such as the Meister College for Manufacturing for which the Regional Industry-University Collaboration Center serves as its contact, as well as students systematically learning about the process of solving industrial and local company issues through "Kotozukuri Practical Education," can also be commended as efforts contributing to solving community problems.

However, there are several issues that should be improved. Although the management strategy headquarters was the responsible entity thus far for internal quality assurance, the cooperative relationship and division of roles between councils and organizations related to improvements and enhancements based on checks and reviews were not made clear. Management strategy headquarters was not appropriately managing improvements. A basic policy regarding internal quality assurance was formulated in AY2021 and the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Council became the new promotional entity. The Self-Study Committee gives out instructions to department-level councils and committees over conducting self-study, and a structure is in place for it to be reported to regarding results of checks and reviews. For internal quality assurance to be promoted appropriately under the new structure, moving forward, improvements should be done. Explanation regarding the method of research guidance and schedule for thesis examination was given to students through the graduate school student handbook and guidance session, etc. Nevertheless, an annual schedule is not provided, and an explanation for students is insufficient; also, improvements should be made. Under capacity in the faculty and graduate school is also an issue.

Moving forward, the JUAA hopes that an organic organizational management that brings out the characteristics of the Institute is verified and developed under the president's strong leadership and that university management aiming at functional and effective internal quality assurance for the development of the Institute is implemented.

Notable Strengths

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- A graduate school survey is conducted for all graduate school students to improve education in the graduate school, and the results of the survey are used by the vice president in charge to conduct individual interviews. Topics for FD are created using opinions and requests gained through honest opinions exchanged with graduate school students during interviews, which can be commended as an initiative contributing to the improvement of education and research in the graduate school.

Student Support

- "Spatial Design Practice" is an on-campus project being conducted with local companies since AY2019 in which students themselves design and create a place for exchange among students, faculty, and staff members in a space open within the campus. It is a project that came to fruition by requesting the cooperation of Niigata companies in the building industry for design and manufacturing know-how as well as for funding and can be commended as an initiative that is in accord with the mission of the Institute for industry and academic cooperation.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Wind and Fluid Engineering Research Center, which was created upon being selected as a "Private University Research Branding Project" in AY2017, has been developed and passed on after completion of the project with assistance from the Institute and is being utilized as an initiative for inner branding, conducting community disaster prevention seminars and career introductory events for local high schools. Activities such as the Kashiwazaki IoT Promotion Lab, Meister College for Manufacturing, and Monozukuri Development Seminar are being held with the Center for Local Industry and Academic Exchange serving as the contact office. "Kotozukuri Practical Education" is being promoted to allow students to systematically learn through experiences such as with efforts to solve industrial and local company problems. Through these activities, the Institute can contribute to solving issues of the Kashiwazaki community and retaining a high level of graduates to work locally, which can be commended as outcomes of initiatives in line with the mission, basic principles, and purpose of the Institute's founding.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The internal quality assurance framework, with the management strategy headquarters as the responsible entity, lacked clarity regarding the cooperative relationship and division of roles among councils and organizations related to improvements based on the results of checks and reviews. Management strategy headquarters were not appropriately implementing improvements. A basic policy regarding internal quality assurance was formulated in AY2021 and the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Council became the new promotional entity. Initiatives are planned for AY2022 with the Council at the core. For internal quality assurance to be promoted appropriately under the new structure, moving forward, improvements should be done.

- The Ordinance for Enforcement of the Education Personnel License Act requires the publication of certain educational information. Of this, however, information has not been disclosed on "goals of teacher training and plan to achieve those goals," "status of graduates having acquired a teacher's license," "status of graduates being employed as teachers," and "initiatives for quality enhancement of education related to teacher training." Improvements are required accordingly.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Faculty of Engineering does not present the basic ideas on curriculum implementation in the curriculum design and implementation policy; this should be improved.

- Explanation regarding the method of research guidance and schedule for thesis examination was given to students through the graduate school student handbook and guidance session, etc. for the Master's and Doctoral Programs in the Graduate School of Engineering. However, an annual schedule has not been provided, and an explanation to students is insufficient. Thus, this should be improved.

Student Enrollment

- Regarding the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap for the past five years, the Faculty of Engineering is low at 0.83. Since the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is also low at 0.85, improvements are required to ensure thorough management of student quota in the faculty.

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.42 in the Master's Program in the Graduate School of Engineering and 0.25 in the Doctoral Program in the Graduate School of Engineering. Therefore, to ensure proper graduate school quota management, this should be improved.

University Management and Finance

- The ratio of financial assets to the required reserve fund has been decreasing since AY2015. The net income from business activity to the income from business operations for the corporation overall and for the university division have continued to record large negatives for five consecutive years, and the ratio of the excessive amount of carried over expenditures for next year to the income from business operations has also been increasing largely. Particularly, the personnel cost ratio, education and research expense ratio, and administrative expense ratio greatly exceed averages for private universities having a faculty of science/engineering. The Institute should make an effort to rebuild an appropriate financial plan and consistently carry it out in order to try to build the financial base required to conduct educational and research activities.