

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

Saitama Institute of Technology



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Saitama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2019	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1.2020 – March 31.2027)	

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Saitama Institute of Technology**

### **Overview**

The mission and purpose of both the graduate school and university of Saitama Institute of Technology (hereinafter referred to as the “Institute”) is “to nurture working members of society with a rich personality and education through the Buddhist spirit.” In the Institute, the phrase “combination and harmony of technology and humanity” is widely used to express this mission and purpose. The Institute formulated the Future Plan and Mid- to Long-term Vision 2016-2020 in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the university’s founding. The pillars of the plan include entrance examination strategy, educational reform and student support strategies, career and employment support strategies, local cooperation strategy, research activity stimulation strategy, and strategies to enhance governance structure.

The Institute has conducted educational activity in an agile and flexible manner in an effort to produce educational effects. In AY2019, for example, the Institute developed major-specific curriculum trees indicating the relationship between educational objectives and subjects in order to enhance the methodical and systematic nature of curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policies) and curricula.

It is remarkable that the Institute has managed to reduce the number of dropouts through implementing a homeroom teacher/assistant homeroom teacher system that leverages the comprehensive portal system and through providing meticulous student support based on faculty-staff cooperation. Aiming to achieve automated driving, the Institute launched the Next-Generation Automobile Project as part of its research efforts in 2016. The project has conducted an automated driving demonstration test on public roads, producing research results through industry-university-government cooperation. This is a highly commendable endeavor representing a contribution to society through education and research.

The Institute has established an internal quality assurance structure centered around the University Self-Study Committee; the organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance. The structure incorporates the Faculty Member Self-Study System that is based on the Self-Study Committees of each division and class review questionnaires. However, meaningful cooperation has not been achieved, and the roles and methods related to improvement have not been clearly established. Going forward,

the Institute should enable its internal quality assurance system to function effectively. To this end, the University Self-Study Committee should play a central role in establishing a structure in which measures for improvement can be implemented consistently, conducting continuous self-study, and working on improvement based on the self-study results.

The graduate schools have not established research supervision methods and schedules in the form of a research supervision plan, and regarding finance, the corporation does not have a sufficient financial base. These issues must be addressed urgently. Furthermore, some departments have constantly exceeded their quota, the graduate program has failed to fulfill its quota, some graduate schools have not established thesis examination criteria, the curriculum design and implementation policy is inadequate, the methods for grasping and assessing the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy (diploma policy) have not been properly established in both the faculties and graduate schools, and some regulations have not been established appropriately. These issues should be addressed.

Despite the fact that the previous university accreditation (certified evaluation and accreditation) raised similar points regarding curricula, learning outcomes, enrollment, university management and finance, etc., no fundamental improvements have been made. Going forward, we hope the Institute develops a university-wide governance structure under the president's strong leadership, verifies and improves methods for organic organizational management, and implements university management aiming at efficient and effective internal quality assurance for development of the university.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Student Support*

- In order to provide organizational learning support, the Institute has established a comprehensive portal system where data on student attendance and grades are gathered so that information on student learning can be shared among staff members. Faculty and staff members use this information when providing guidance to students or supporting students with poor grades, which is conducted in the first year in groups. It is commendable that the Institute has succeeded in reducing the number of dropouts through providing detailed support based on such student data.

### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- The Institute has implemented practical initiatives based on its research findings. For example, as part of its active engagement in the research and development of advanced technology, the Institute has participated in a large-scale automated driving demonstration test conducted by the government, successfully held a demonstration test on public roads, the first of its kind to be held in Saitama Prefecture, in cooperation with businesses, and established a university venture that dispatches automated driving operators who are necessary for demonstration tests. In AY2019, the Institute established the Automated Driving Technology Development Center in order to conduct research on automated driving technology that leverages cutting-edge AI technology and develop welfare vehicles with automated driving functions, opening the way for further technological development. These are commendable endeavors in that they reflect social needs and represent a contribution to society through advanced research.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

#### *Educational Program and Outcome*

- The degree award policy of the MA Course in Digital Creation in the Department of Informational Society Studies (Master's Course) does not indicate the learning outcomes, including knowledge, skills, and abilities, that students need to attain in order to receive a degree. This should be improved.
- The Master's Courses and Doctoral Courses in the Department of Life Science and Green Chemistry, Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Department of Information Systems in the Graduate School of Engineering, respectively, do not present the basic ideas on curriculum organization and implementation in the curriculum design and implementation policy. This should be improved.
- The Master's Courses in the Graduate School of Engineering and the Master's Courses in the Graduate School of Human and Social Studies do not clearly indicate the thesis examination criteria. This should be improved.
- Individual faculties and graduate schools do not clearly present the methods for measuring the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy or the

indicators used when conducting assessments. Therefore, the faculties and graduate schools should establish these and measure learning outcomes in a diversified and appropriate manner.

#### *Student Enrollment*

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.36 in the Master's Courses in the Graduate School of Human and Social Studies. Therefore, the Institute should thoroughly implement graduate school quota management to improve the situation.

#### *University Management and Finance*

- Committee regulations have not been revised appropriately and thus do not correspond to the current organizational structure. The Institute should review the regulations to ensure that decision-making, execution of authority, and other matters are conducted appropriately in accordance with the provisions in the regulations.

### **Recommendations**

#### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- In AY2018, the Institute established an internal quality assurance structure centered around the University Self-Study Committee, the organization responsible for implementing self-study and promoting internal quality assurance, with the structure featuring division-specific Self-Study Committees and the Faculty Member Self-Study System. However, a structure for implementing measures for improvement based on the results of checks and reviews has not been established. Other than the Faculty Member Self-Study System, active self-study is not conducted in the Institute, including individual faculties and graduate schools. Going forward, the Institute should enable its internal quality assurance system to function effectively. To this end, the University Self-Study Committee should play a central role in establishing a structure in which measures for improvement can be implemented consistently based on the results of checks and reviews, conducting continuous self-study, and working on improvement based on the self-study results.

### *Educational Program and Outcome*

- The Graduate School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Human and Social Studies have not set forth research supervision methods and schedules in the form of a research supervision plan. These should be established and clearly presented to students in advance.

### *Student Enrollment*

- In the last five years, the average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap and the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap have been high at 1.42 and 1.40, respectively, in the Department of Information Systems in the Faculty of Engineering. The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.81 in the Department of Life Science and Green Chemistry in the Faculty of Engineering and 0.86 in the Department of Informational Society Studies in the Faculty of Human and Social Studies. Therefore, the Institute should thoroughly implement faculty quota management to improve the situation.

### *University Management and Finance*

- Since AY2015, the ratio of the excessive amount of carried over expenditures for next year to the income from business operations has been increasing, and the ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund is still hovering at a low level. Therefore, the Institute has not established the financial base necessary for implementing educational and research activities in a stable manner. The Institute should clarify the measures for securing the funding required for dealing with the deterioration of facilities and equipment, which the Institute considers an issue of priority, formulate a mid- to long-term financial plan including numerical targets, and work on improving its financial health.