

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

Institute of Information Security



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Institute of Information Security

Overview

The Institute of Information Security (hereafter, the Institute) was opened in Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture by Iwasaki Gakuen School with the purpose of making contributions to the development of science and technology by conducting research in the field of theory and application in information security, deepening knowledge in the field, and sharing that knowledge through education. The Institute established a sole graduate school of information security, which offers master's and doctoral programs.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the self-study, and internal quality assurance committee and its subordinate working group have explored the plan for improvement and implement it across the Institute.

The distinctive feature of the Institute found in this accreditation review is the Practical Human Resource Development Program that was developed in 2012 as the result of an academic-industrial alliance program for developing human resources named ISS Square since 2008. The Practical Human Resource Development Program, called enPit-Security or SecCap in the information security field, has been collaboratively developed by five universities as part of the Project for Establishing a Nationwide Practical Education Network for IT Human Resources Development (enPiT).

However, there are same issues to be addressed. Among them student enrollment is a major issue, as it was in the previous accreditation review. Furthermore while the one- and two-year master's programs offer the same degree, they have different requirements for program completion, with no reasonable grounds. To improve this issue, the Institute must: clarify the number of required credits for completion of each of the programs; clarify the difference between the master's thesis and the research project on specific themes, with developing rigorous criteria for examinations; and reconsider program design. Further efforts are expected to improve the substance of syllabi, the management of the library, the activities to inform research ethics, and the development of various rules.

While taking advantage of the features of a graduate school and paying sufficient attention to systematic management, the Institute is expected to improve and make further development based on the results of self-study.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the Institute has made serious efforts to develop a program to meet the increasing demand for practical human resources security training. This program has been highly appreciated by students, and the numbers of both graduates and participating schools are increasing. In particular, using the results of ISS Square since 2008, the Education Network for Practical Information Technologies in the security field was collaboratively developed by five universities as part of the Education Network for Practical Information Technologies (enPiT) in 2012. The Institute, as a representative of the program, has managed, operated and coordinated this program since its founding and has offered a useful educational program that provides practical training for human resources security, which is a great need in today's society.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The syllabi of many classes lack necessary details. For example, some does not indicate clear objectives of the learning, and there are some classes that lack standards for assessment for evaluation of learning results. This should be improved.
- In the one-year master's programs, the criteria for examining the research paper on specific themes have not been indicated. This should be improved.

Education and Research Environment

- Currently, office staff members also work for the library. Full-time librarians or the other staff with specialized knowledge should be hired.
- Systematic efforts regarding research ethics education for faculty members should be made.

Administration and Finance

- While no basic regulations defined the authority and roles of the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean has been authorized to perform responsible roll for many academic affairs through the other regulations, and has too much power over important matters concerning education and research. This is not a preferable situation and should be improved.

Area of Serious Concern

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- Even though the one- and two-year programs offer the same degree, they set different requirements for completing each program. This must be improved.

Enrollment

- The average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is low at 0.64 in the master's program and 0.30 in the doctoral program. In each program, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.80 and 0.50. These numbers must be improved.