

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

Miyagi University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Miyagi, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2013	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Miyagi University

Notable Strengths

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that Miyagi University (hereafter, the University) has taken effective measures to educate its first-year students. In particular, each faculty has implemented a “Basic Seminar,” a program for first-year students that improves students’ basic skills (e.g., gathering and arranging information, making presentations, and engaging in discussions). The seminar has been highly rated in evaluations by students and faculty members. In addition, the seminar has been effective in addressing the transition from high school to university education in the students’ awareness and has helped students to learn through seminars and projects in undergraduate education.
- It is also commendable that the University has developed a system of educational quality improvement. For example, faculty members develop plans to enhance their teaching based on the issues pointed out through course evaluations, and they make these plans public. Moreover, there is a system through which the faculty members whose course evaluations fall below the standard to draw up a “Plan to Improve Teaching” and implement their plans.
- It is commendable that the School of Project Design has allowed students to practice the knowledge and skills they learned through the “e-Business seminar” and join forces with the Tourist Association in the Town of Minami Sanriku-cho to make contributions to the long term recovery efforts of the 2011 earthquake.
- It is commendable that the School of Nursing has made efforts for stimulating and enhancing students’ self-directed learning abilities. In particular, it has developed a set of original evaluation indicators to assess students’ learning outcomes. Since the school year of 2010, the School of Nursing has distributed the publication “Reflection on Your Learning,” which lists seventy-eight evaluation items for first-year students when entering the program. In addition, in order to make effective use of the publication, the School of Nursing has set standards for the use of evaluation items. It then allows the students to evaluate themselves before their clinical work and meet faculty members to consult with after their clinical work is completed. Faculty members have made the effective use of the publication as an educational tool.

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made appropriate efforts to give the fruits of education and research back to local society. In particular, based on its policy of social cooperation and contribution, the University has revitalized the activities of the Regional Liaison Center to be a “university open to local communities.” The University has also actively taken initiatives to make contributions to local society, collaborate with government and industry, cooperate with other universities, cooperate with Miyagi Prefecture, and promote projects to develop local communities. It has disseminated information and assisted with technological improvements to meet local challenges.
- Furthermore, it is commendable that the University as a whole has made systematic

efforts to support recovery efforts after the 2011 earthquake. In particular, each faculty has taken innovative initiatives that make good use of its unique characteristics in support of the recovery efforts. In addition, as a measure of the Project Promoting Collaboration with Other Universities, the University has developed a project to foster community planners working with University of Hyogo, which has an experience in earthquake recovery efforts.

Administration and finance

- It is commendable that the University has made stride to build, develop, and operate as a university corporation system. The record shows that the number of administrative staff hired by Public University Corporation Miyagi University up to the school year of 2012 has achieved the objective of the mid-term plan in which the University aimed at fifty percent of its administrative staff being hired by the corporation.
- It is commendable that the University has improved its support system for students during the times of emergency. In particular, based on the experience of the 2011 earthquake, it established the “Safety Identification System” in the school year of 2011, in which the University moved the server from the inside of the University to the outside in order for the University to contact students during power outage. Through this system, students can reply to the emails sent by the University with one click, so that the University will know that they are okay. This is a good example for other universities.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and purpose

- There is some discrepancy between the founding ideas and mission of the University and the purposes and aims of each faculty and graduate school. This should be improved.

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- In their policies to grant degrees, the University as a whole, including its faculties and graduate schools, do not indicate learning outcomes for students at the time of program completion. This should be improved.
- In the School of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the maximum number of credits which transfer students can register for per year has been set high at fifty eight for third-year students and with no maximum limit for fourth-year students. This situation should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- In the Doctoral programs, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the university before completing their dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the university. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is not an appropriate use of the system and should be corrected. The University should reconsider ways to deal with this problem, and in accordance with the purpose of having course-based doctoral program, the University should create measures to ensure degree completion within the required time frame.

- The Masters' and Doctoral programs of the Graduate School of Project Design and the Graduate School of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences do not clearly indicate the criteria for examining degree-seeking dissertations to students. This should be improved by stating the criteria in the student handbook (and other handbooks). Also, in the Masters' program of the Graduate School of Nursing, the same criteria for examining degree-seeking theses applies to both the program to foster researchers and the program to foster Certified Nurse Specialists. This should be improved by writing separate criteria in each program's student handbook, and clearly indicating this to the students before they undertake their theses.

Enrollment

- In the Department of Environmental Sciences in the School of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the ratio of enrolled transfer students to the transfer student enrollment cap is low at 0.50. This situation must be improved.