

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

Toyota Technological Institute



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Aichi, 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 Toyota Technological Institute

Overview

Toyota Technological Institute (hereafter, the Institute) was established as part of social contribution by Toyota Motor Co., Ltd. (currently Toyota Motor Corporation) in 1981. Initially, the Institute, without precedent, accepted only those with industrial work experience, aiming to provide working adults who had not attended colleges or graduate schools with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of engineering in a good educational and research environment without incurring a heavy financial burden. The Institute started to accept high school graduates as well in 1993, following changes in society, and since then it has devoted significant efforts to developing humanity and expertise in specialized fields for students through small-group education that focuses on practical studies with the support of industry. A sister school, Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago (TTI-C), was established in 2003, and since then the Institute has concluded collaborative agreements with a number of universities overseas. In accordance with its founding philosophy, “Respect the spirit of research and creativity, and always strive to stay ahead of the times,” the Institute has actively engaged in training the next generation of global industry leaders, and is currently operating with the Faculty of Engineering and the Graduate School of Engineering.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the Institute has continuously reviewed various educational and research activities, including those that failed to produce sufficient outcomes, under the Self-Study Committee chaired by the president and tasked with improving the quality of activities. In addition, external experts such as academic advisers have been asked for their opinions on the outcomes. Their responses have been incorporated to make active improvements and changes, and they have been crucial for the management of the Institute ever since its foundation.

In this accreditation review, JUAA recognized that the Institute has engaged in productive education and research activities by giving financial consideration to students such as the Institute’s own scholarship, including the development of the “institutional warrant system,” and maintaining low tuition rates. It is commendable that the Institute has made a number of distinctive efforts. For example, its efforts include introduction of the Creativity Development Program, which is defined as a group of specific subjects to help students develop independence and creativity from their first to fourth years, the Step-Up English Point System that motivates students to keep learning English, and the Principal Responsible Professor System in the doctoral program that contributes to advanced research in the Institute. However, issues remain in terms of student admission. JUAA expects that the Institute will extend its various distinctive efforts and will advance the reform.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the Faculty of Engineering adopted the Creativity Development Program, which is defined as a group of specific subjects to develop students’ independence and creativity from the first to fourth years, and heightened student motivation by assigning many of these subjects as required courses. For instance, “Extracurricular Training” (internship) provides students with opportunities to learn how to use their engineering knowledge to solve problems in product development or quality management as part of the industry-university cooperation. While offering two courses in electric cars and robots, Creativity Development Training gives students an opportunity to learn how to apply their knowledge and skills to designing and making of products. All of these efforts are effective to realize the philosophy of the foundation.

- It is commendable that the Institute has made efforts to promote education for the development of human talents, and has developed an appropriate curriculum by helping students understand how the curriculum corresponds to the learning outcomes defined in the policy on degree award in order to promote their active learning. The Faculty of Engineering has made a table of correspondence between subjects and learning outcomes to show the five kinds of competencies defined in the policy on degree award and the targeted goals of each subject, and indicated these in the syllabus of each course to help students understand the relationship.

Student Support

- It is commendable that the Institute has introduced the Step-Up English Point System, in which students earn points by participating in a couple of programs, such as English learning in the summer seminar at “iPlaza” (a space for international exchanges) and by getting scores of TOEIC[®] or TOEFL[®]. This system is used as one of graduation requirements also an index for grasping learning outcomes of English courses. It is also commendable that this point system motivates students to keep learning, as the acquired points are used as an index to determine the subsidy for the language training participation fee.
- It is commendable that each student receives detailed guidance on studying, future courses, and student life from an assigned faculty adviser (academic adviser). The content of this guidance is recorded in the interview and comment column in the student’s e-Chart and shared with administration staff members. In addition, first-year students, who are required to live in a dormitory, receive support from a faculty adviser, and a student “dormitory supporter” and “learning supporter” are also assigned. The mutual support is provided among eight students living in each of shear-house-like unit. It is also commendable that these measures have prepared an environment in which students acquire not only academic skills but also independence and self-reliance.
- It is commendable that the Institute offers a variety of measures for financial support and provides a good study environment for students. For example, the Institute has enhanced its own funding for educational expenses while keeping tuition fees as low as those of national universities. It has also maintained the Toyota scholarship fund by securing donations from supporting companies, and enhanced its own scholarship program by using the interest income of the Fund.. In addition, the Institute also offers interest-free loans to students who have difficulty paying tuition and offers scholarships to motivated students with high academic achievement and excellent character. Furthermore, the Institute has developed the “institutional warrant system” that does not require any guarantor or joint guarantor.

Education and Research Environment

- It is commendable that through the Principal Professor System, the Institute has enabled its professors to lead research at the Institute, promoted academic research in each specialized field, and constantly disseminated the excellent research results. This system provides professors with highly competitive research facilities as well as better conditions in terms of financial supports and research staffs working under them.

Suggestions for Improvement

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.22 in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Engineering. This number should be improved.

Area of Serious Concern*Enrollment*

- The averages of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are high at 1.20 and 1.27 respectively in the Department of Advanced Science and Technology in the Faculty of Engineering. These numbers must be improved.