

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

Niigata Sangyo University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: limited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2021)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Niigata Sangyo University

Overview

Niigata Sangyo University (hereafter, the University) was founded as Kashiwazaki Vocational College in 1947, and after becoming Kashiwazaki Junior College, the school was chartered as Niigata Prefecture's first four-year private university with the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1988. The University later expanded and reorganized its departments and faculties while launching a graduate school. At present, The University consists of one faculty (Economics) and one graduate school (Economics and Business Administration). With its campus situated in the city of Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, the University conducts education and research activities based on the founder's belief that "reconstruction and development of postwar Japan and construction of a peaceful, happy society depend on the education of young people" and the educational philosophy of "establishment of the independent self."

Following the Japan University Accreditation Association's (JUAA) University Accreditation in 2010, the President and Vice President Meeting has played a central role in developing a management structure and formulating the Niigata Sangyo University Reform Plan (FY2016 to FY2020). The University has adopted a series of reforms to increase student enrollment by promoting open campus events, securing prospective applicants through visits to local high schools, and attracting international students, while also reducing labor costs to improve its financial situation. However, as stated below, two areas of improvement remain.

For student enrollment, the average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the past five years and the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap remain low. Since the University has examined and implemented various improvement measures, including reviewing its freshman enrollment cap, dealing with dropouts, and improving its entrance examination system, pursuit of these improvement initiatives should continue so as to achieve proper student quota management.

Regarding the University's financial affairs, with the aim of stabilizing its financial base under the Niigata Sangyo University Reform Plan, the University has implemented improvement measures based on action plans that include specifying numerical targets for increasing its income by securing students, acquiring external

funds, and reducing labor costs. Nevertheless, the University has yet to consolidate the financial base required to realize its objectives and goals, making it even more necessary to effectively promote the improvement measures stated in the University's reform plan and immediately improve its balance sheet.

In addition, in terms of internal quality assurance, with self-study not regularly conducted, it would be difficult to describe the University's organizational structure as functioning sufficiently to internally share and solve problems arising on campus. In the coming years, the University should continue its improvement initiatives for JUAA's rereview by managing the progress of projects based on its reform plan and measuring their effectiveness while regularly conducting systematic self-study.

On the other hand, this latest University Accreditation confirms that the University is advancing many reforms, including further reorganizing its faculty and overall curriculum, based on the above-mentioned reform plan. In addition, the University has developed and implemented a system for continuously returning its education and research outcomes in various ways to society in cooperation with communities and organizations over a wide area. With the Niigata Sangyo University Regional Collaboration Center established in 2016, the University is more actively engaged in activities and expected to achieve more positive outcomes.

It is highly expected that this University Accreditation will encourage the University to do its utmost for improvement and further development.

Notable Strength

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has developed and implemented a system for continuously returning its education and research outcomes in various ways to society in cooperation with communities and organizations over a wide area, including the city of Kashiwazaki. Most of the University's seminars deal with regional themes, such as town development planning, including the "Machikado (street-corner) Laboratory Project," to promote local production and consumption through a local currency, commercialization of local specialties, and creation of sightseeing guide maps. Based on these themes, the University has introduced a wide range of problem-solving educational activities that are effectively linked to cooperation with communities, including local governments, businesses, stores,

and social welfare organizations. In addition, to further strengthen its commitment, the University established the Niigata Sangyo University Regional Collaboration Center in 2016 as an organization that promotes and supports collaboration of these diverse activities.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The screening standards for themed research papers are not explicitly stated in the Faculty of Economics. Improvements are needed to establish these standards separately from the screening standards for master's theses and to have them stated in the Graduate School Guidebook.

Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.45 in the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration and should be improved.

Education and Research Environment

- The library has not hired full-time qualified librarian or the other staff with expert knowledge. This situation should be improved.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University conducts self-study in accordance with the regulations, but self-study is limited to once every seven years in preparation for the University Accreditation, making it difficult to claim that self-study is regularly implemented throughout the University. In addition, given that improvements have yet to be made concerning the remarks pointed out in the previous University Accreditation, it is doubtful that the University's PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, including self-study, is functioning properly. In the coming years, improvements are required to conduct self-study regularly and systematically while developing and operating

an effective internal quality assurance system.

Areas of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- In 2017, the average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the past five years was low at 0.75 in the Faculty of Economics (the entire undergraduate program), 0.87 in the Department of Economics and Business Management, and 0.59 in the Department of Cultural Economics, while the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap was also low at 0.79 in the Faculty of Economics (undergraduate program) and 0.62 in the Department of Cultural Economics. These ratios should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- The ratio of financial assets to the required reserve funds and the rate of next fiscal year's excess of carry-over expenditures to the operating income (imputed income) show a downward trend. The financial situation of the University should be improved and corrected immediately by promoting the improvement measures stated in the five-year Niigata Sangyo University Reform Plan (2016-2020).