

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

Fukuoka University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukuoka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Fukuoka University

Overview

Fukuoka University defines its founding philosophy as “Steady, Sensible, Sincere, Strong, and Spirited,” and sets forth the three educational and research principles of “coexistence of specialists and generalists,” “coexistence of specialized education and interdisciplinary education and research,” and “coexistence of regionalism and globalism” for the purpose of providing “education for all” based on duality. The University describes its founding philosophy as “Fukuoka University’s Five Ss (FU-5s)” in simple English and publicizes the phrase in various media. This is a commendable effort to promote the University’s unique values widely in Japan and abroad. However, some faculties and graduate schools are expected to provide a more specific connection between their purpose and educational and research principles. The University has adopted long-term priority policies over the decade under Fukuoka University Vision 2014-2023, and along with these policies the University has formulated the Fukuoka University Medium- to Long-term Plan (Phase 1: 2020-2024) for the five-year period from AY2020 with a view to the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1934.

Regarding the University’s internal quality assurance, the Self-Assessment Promotion Council is responsible for promoting university-wide internal quality assurance in accordance with the Fukuoka University Internal Quality Assurance Policy (Basic Concepts, etc.). The meeting issues specific instructions on internal quality assurance to the departments after setting up the Domain-based Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee consisting of the Educational Promotion Council, Central Research Promotion Council, Regional Cooperation Promotion Council, and Project Management Council. Following the meeting’s instructions, the Department-based Self-Study Implementation Committee conducts a self-study of each department. In this way, the three-tiered internal quality assurance system has been in place with assessments carried out by the External Assessment Committee when appropriate. It is commendable that the University is appropriately operating the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycles of department-based, domain-based, and university-wide internal quality assurance through three-tiered improvement instructions and reports.

As for the University’s education, diploma and curriculum policies are

established, made known to the public, and appropriately managed. The University's efforts to enhance student learning and provide effective education are recognized, with active learning and other approaches eagerly adopted and a support system actively promoted.

The University has notably undertaken an initiative to assess the achievement of the student learning outcomes stated in the diploma policy. The University's unique "FURIKA" class survey system was introduced in AY2018 for students to reflect on their studies and for faculty members to confirm the achievement of student learning outcomes. It is highly commendable that the University has developed a mechanism for improving and enhancing its education from the standpoints of students, faculty members, and organizations. In addition, the Monozukuri Center carries out distinctive manufacturing projects for students to develop design and conceptual abilities as well as self-reliance, reasoning, and other practical skills. This is an outstanding student support initiative as part of the University's "education for all" efforts. Moreover, the University takes advantage of its strengths as an institution offering a wide variety of academic programs to undertake social cooperation and contribution activities through the collaboration of students, faculty, staff, and local residents. These outstanding initiatives include the Faculty of Engineering's years of river cleanup activities and the "Fukuoka Method" landfill technology jointly developed by the University and Fukuoka City.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. The University's student quota management should be improved as student enrollment is either far above or far below the student enrollment cap in some faculties and graduate schools. Moreover, a number of inconsistent description formats were found in the curriculum policies of the faculties and departments. The Graduate School Handbook provides unclear explanations as to how the graduate schools' systematic and sequential curricula are linked to the diploma policies, and teaching methods are not specified in the syllabuses for some course subjects. These issues should be addressed in the coming years.

The University operates a multi-layered cycle of its highly structured internal quality assurance system, and is expected to unify and refine its educational and research activities by utilizing and upgrading this system. The University is also expected to progress further by constantly inspecting and enhancing such distinctive initiatives as the FURIKA class surveys and the Monozukuri Center as it accumulates and disseminates its achievements to society.

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The University developed its own online FURIKA class survey and feedback system in AY2018 to allow students to reflect on their learning in all subjects by answering questions focusing on study hours, achievements, comprehension, and other performances. In addition, FD activities are conducted for faculty members to learn in detail about FURIKA with the system used to improve classes, as well as for the heads of educational programs to confirm the achievement of the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policies. It is commendable that these approaches are expected to promote educational improvements for students, faculty, and organizations in terms of lessons and educational programs.

Student Support

- The Monozukuri Center supports university-wide education and research activities, and manages five student projects (Solar Boat Project, Eco Mileage Challenge Project, Interior Design Project, Robot Project, and Programming Project). With the aim of participating in off-campus competitions, students plan their own projects assisted by the center's teaching and technical staff, and make full use of the necessary manufacturing tools to carry out the entire process from design to production and testing. These activities were originally led by students from the Faculty of Engineering, but with programming added to encourage the participation of liberal arts students, the center's projects have developed into university-wide initiatives. The center now aims to foster students through manufacturing by helping them develop design and conceptual abilities as well as self-reliance, reasoning, and other practical skills. This approach is commendable as an outstanding student support initiative of the University's "education for all" efforts based on its educational and research principles and founding philosophy.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University utilizes the expertise of its faculties, departments, and graduate schools to respond to a wide range of community needs, in line with its social

cooperation and contribution policy. Specifically, the Faculty of Engineering's faculty and students have long engaged in river cleanup activities with local residents. The University and Fukuoka City have jointly developed the Fukuoka Method landfill technology, which is internationally recognized and now used in many parts of the world. It is commendable that the University takes advantage of its strength as an institution comprising faculties and graduate schools in various specialized fields of study to realize the coexistence of regionalism and globalism.

Suggestions for Improvement

Student Enrollment

- The Faculty of Medicine, School of Medicine, has a high ratio of 1.04 in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. This ratio should be lowered with the undergraduate school's student quotas thoroughly managed.
- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.43 in the Master's Degree Program of the Graduate School of Humanities, 0.25 in the Doctoral Degree Program of the Graduate School of Humanities, 0.25 in the Master's Degree Program of the Graduate School of Economics, 0.27 in the Doctoral Degree Program of the Graduate School of Commerce, and 0.29 in the Doctoral Degree Program of the Graduate School of Science. These ratios should be improved with the graduate schools' student quotas thoroughly managed.