

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

Miyazaki Municipal University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Miyazaki, 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 Miyazaki Municipal University

Overview

Miyazaki Municipal University (hereafter, the University), which was established by Miyazaki Municipal University Administrative Cooperative, is a college with a single faculty for the Department of Intercultural Studies, the Faculty of Humanities. The University has its campus in the city of Miyazaki, Miyazaki Prefecture, and engages in education and research activities based on its founding philosophy, “a university nurturing individuals of superior insights who have an international perspective, and depth character. As an institution, our gates are open to the local community.” While some changes have occurred within the University since its establishment, such as incorporation in 2007 and a change of its founding organization to the Miyazaki City in 2011, the University has inherited its founding philosophy and until recently has been a liberal arts university.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the University created a forum titled “Thinking About Tomorrow’s Miyazaki Municipal University” in 2012 in order to determine the kind of education and management that would be required as a community-rooted public university. Taking into consideration the forum’s suggestions, the University has made efforts for improvement, such as establishing the Committee for Designing an Attractive University, which has redesigned the curriculum as well as the education and research organization. Taking advantage of its small scale, the University has developed small-group seminars in all grades. In particular, the Core Seminar in the second year allows students to practice active-learning based on themes such as community issues, and the curriculum represents the University’s presence as a community-rooted public university. While the newly instituted curriculum has experienced a number of issues, JUAA has high hopes for future achievements.

It is commendable that the University actively supports students’ international exchange experiences through the establishment of the Global Center, increasing the number of its partner universities, offering language learning support, and covering students’ travel expenses. The University has actively made efforts for improving the quality of the clerical staff. Especially, as part of staff development, the University has encouraged staff members to actively participate in external trainings, and also publishes a public relations magazine in collaboration with students. Moreover, as part of the internal quality assurance system, the University has set up the Reform Promotion Committee where the president, the head of the department, and the head of each section collaborate to build a system in which the committee manages self-study from each section and promptly shares issues and makes efforts for improvements.

However, the University still has several issues to address. Since the maximum limit of credits that students register for annually has not been set yet (which was pointed out in the last accreditation), JUAA expects that the University will improve the issue from the perspective of substantiation of the credit system.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- It is commendable that as a small-scale public university, the University has accomplished high rates of achievement in student international exchange. In particular, the University has built an organized and active support system, such as waiving tuition fees while students are studying abroad; supplying scholarships, study abroad programs, and language learning supports through

the Global Center; and other kinds of events. These efforts are based on the University's founding mission, and purpose of nurturing "global human talents with broad knowledge and sound expertise," and as a result, more than half of the students have studied abroad through publicly funded student exchange programs and cross-cultural trainings (short-term overseas training programs), and privately funded programs.

Administration and Finance

- It is commendable that the University has actively made efforts in staff development for improving clerical staffs' skills and competence by offering participation in numerous outside trainings, in addition to university-wide trainings. In particular, publishing a public relations magazine, "MMU-SHiP," in cooperation with students has led to improvements in faculty members' PR and guidance skills as they support the students working with them. In addition, because the magazine helps to communicate the University's characteristics from the students' point of view, it is viewed as a device that helps everyone feels closer to the University. It is also commendable that the University has improved students' sense of independence through the management of this publication as a university-wide internship.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The maximum number of credits a student is allowed to register for per year is not defined. This should be improved, according to the purpose of the credit system.