

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Iwate Prefectural University, Miyako Junior College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Iwate, 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 Iwate Prefectural University, Miyako Junior College

Overview

Iwate Prefectural University, Miyako Junior College (hereafter, the College), established in response to the regional demand for expanded higher education in Iwate Prefecture's coastal area, defines its purpose as "to develop in students professional and practical life skills imparted through education and research of a broad range of knowledge and in-depth expertise, and to contribute to local and global community development."

Internal quality assurance is carried out according to the College's Medium-term Plan formulated by the Medium-term Plan Development Committee, a university-wide entity represented by the adjoining Iwate Prefectural University, Iwate Prefectural University, Morioka Junior College, and the College itself, and promoted under the responsibility of the University Evaluation Committee. The Medium-term Plan includes both university-wide plans and college- and department-specific plans, and is implemented with its progress and delivery reported on by the university-wide Administrative Offices comprised of the Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Education Support Office, Student Support Office, Research and Regional Cooperation Office, Planning Office, and General Affairs Division. The College's yearly medium-term activities are externally audited by the Iwate Prefectural Incorporated Administrative Agency Evaluation Committee. The college-specific plan is executed by the College's various committees, with the Internal Operations Council responsible for producing an activity report for submission to the Administrative Offices. As described above, an internal quality assurance system is in place and functioning with the College's autonomy respected. However, such matters as the authority, division of roles and responsibilities, and procedures of the internal quality assurance system are not clearly defined in the university-wide Internal Quality Assurance Policy. There is also the issue of the College's operation as a single-major school being constrained by its limited staff. To ensure consistent implementation of internal quality assurance, the authority, roles and responsibilities, and procedures of the internal quality assurance system should be clearly stipulated in a university-wide policy or other such regulations.

The College's education is conducted by the Department of Business Management and Information Sciences under a curriculum created in line with the diploma and curriculum policies aimed at developing specialized knowledge and skills. The distinctive features of the education program include the basic and special research

seminars offered in a small-class format to encourage active and self-directed learning, and personal instruction available during regular office hours provided by all teachers every Wednesday and at “Office Hour Plus,” an individually-scheduled teacher-student meeting. With respect to the assessment and evaluation of learning outcomes, a university-wide assessment policy was adopted in AY2020. The assessment policy, which took effect in AY2022, specifies the timing and method of assessment by level, the expected learning outcomes corresponding to the timing and method of assessment, and how the learning outcome data are to be used and published. The College is expected to continue monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes in accordance with the relatively new assessment policy.

The College offers outstanding social cooperation and contribution activities. One such activity is the on-going research projects conducted through the university-wide Center for Regional Policy Studies aimed at addressing regional issues. Research topics for projects are proposed by Iwate-based community organizations in response to invitations from the Center. As a collaborative effort involving local high schools, government agencies, and various civic groups, these community projects are a form of social contribution through research activities. Furthermore, many students participate in student community service groups such as the Junior Red Cross (JRC) and the tourism club. Some students serve on the Miyako City-organized committee tasked with community revitalization and development. These community service activities are a highly commendable practical learning experiences that integrate specialized education with social contribution.

As described above, with the aim of achieving its purpose and mission, the College formulates, implements, and evaluates yearly plans based on its medium-term goals and plans. Efforts are underway to improve the College’s teaching, research, and community contribution programs. Going forward, the College is expected to continue promoting its on-going efforts to monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes and to further improve its education and research.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Center for Regional Policy Studies leads an institution-wide effort to address regional problems by inviting Iwate-based community organizations to submit project proposals, and working on these projects to formulate solutions or funding

studies that lead to solutions. The College steadily contributes to the Center's efforts with faculty members participating in various research projects, such as the study on effective policy measures to increase the female population in prefectural regions and the study on developing new benefit packages through the collaborative efforts of agricultural corporations. It is commendable that the College promotes community contribution in partnership with local government agencies, high schools, and other entities to help address regional problems.

- Under the guidance and support of the teaching staff, student community service groups such as the Junior Red Cross (JRC) and the tourism club participate in volunteer activities, assisting in recovery efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in the city of Miyako, and helping to organize local festivals. Some students serve on the Miyako City-organized committee tasked with community revitalization and development, offering suggestions and recommendations to enhance the city's attraction as a tourism destination. These are commendable social contribution programs that develop in students the basic skills of a working professional and also provide learning experiences that integrate specialized education with community service.