

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Iwate Prefectural University Morioka Junior College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Iwate, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016– March.31.2023)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Iwate Prefectural University Morioka Junior College

Overview

Iwate Prefectural University Morioka Junior College (hereafter, the College) was originally established as Morioka Junior College with two academic departments: the Department of Home Economics and the Department of Arts and Crafts. It was renamed Iwate-Prefectural Morioka Junior College in 1963. In 1998, a new prefectural university, Iwate Prefectural University, was established on the Takizawa Campus (in Takizawa City, Iwate Prefecture) and the college moved its buildings to the same campus and was again renamed Iwate Prefectural University Morioka Junior College. Therefore, the College became a junior college affiliated with Iwate Prefectural University. It had two departments, the Department of International Cultural Studies and the Department of Life Science (which had two majors, Life Science and Food and Nutrition). In 2005, Iwate Prefectural University was turned into an independent administrative entity, and the College became a junior college division run by the university.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University Evaluation Committee broke its six core plans into fifty specific aims for the entire college. It has worked to have each department formulate plans linked to the fifty aims. It has reviewed the annual plans as self-study activities, making its system of Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle functional.

In addition to the volunteer activities that the College refers to as its uniqueness, JUAA recognizes the College's other unique characteristics in this accreditation review. In particular, the College has created new career education subjects to enhance students' employability and offers them as introductory classes for learning at the College. By doing so, the College has made efforts to nurture the students' basic ability to act as members of society.

It is the unique characteristic of the College to steadily act on Iwate Prefecture's regional problems and to maintain its involvement. For example, based on its missions and purposes, the College has continued various volunteer activities to support the recovery efforts from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, in which faculty members and students together have taken initiatives for action. In one of the volunteer projects, called "Mizu-Bora (water volunteering)," bottled water is distributed to victims of the disaster in Hirota Peninsula in Rikuzentakata City on a monthly basis. The project now also serves as a neighborhood watch to prevent the isolation of elderly residents. Furthermore, the College has promoted friendship between its students and high school students as well as international students by introducing Japanese cultural activities and holding exchange meetings. This has resulted in the expansion of support activities. In addition, the College has held annual lectures to support their graduates who are employed as dietitians. These graduates need support to meet the challenge of taking the national examination to be registered dietitians. The College also has engaged in other various efforts that strengthen the College's roots in the local community.

Notable Strength

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the College has made efforts to keep working on various volunteer activities to support recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Faculty members and students, in collaboration with Ohio University in the United States, have played main roles to continue to deliver bottles of water and tea to the disaster-affected areas. The College has also identified challenges and needs of the areas still requiring restoration and has decided to work on whatever it can do to

assist while maintaining communication with those disaster affected areas and making its support a part of continuing restoration efforts. The College has contributed to the revitalization of the area and has promoted friendship with foreign students via exchange meetings and tea seminars, thus offering students opportunities to foster international cooperation.