

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: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

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

Overview

The founding mission of Iwate Prefectural University, Morioka Junior College (hereafter, the College), is set forth as: “In hopes of creating a new era of harmony among men, nature and science, we provide an education that fosters independence, knowledge and highly specialized skills which contribute to the enrichment of humanity and society.” Under this mission, the College strives “to produce highly cultured and competent professionals through specialized education and research combined with liberal arts education, and to contribute to the development of local and global communities.”

The College is part of a university system that includes Morioka Prefectural University. Activities related to teaching, admissions, and public relations are conducted within the framework of such university-wide organizations as the Education Support Office, Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Student Support Office, Research and Regional Cooperation Office, Planning Office, and General Affairs Division. Internal quality assurance is implemented in accordance with the university-wide Internal Quality Assurance Policy formulated in AY2021 by the University Evaluation Committee. The university-wide organizations are responsible for the action plans covering the entire university system, while the College develops and implements its own independent action plans outlined in the Medium-term Plan. The College’s education and research activities are reviewed by the Self-Study Committee with the results reported to the Planning Office, one of the university-wide organizations, through the University Evaluation Analysis Division and the University Evaluation Committee. It should be pointed out that the internal quality assurance system described here needs to be clearly documented in the College’s policies or regulations.

The education programs of each department are guided by the diploma and curriculum policies, and student learning outcomes are assessed in accordance with the assessment policy established in AY2018. To improve teaching effectiveness, the College offers pre-enrollment and remedial classes, promotes one-on-one instructions, adopts teaching methods that encourage active student participation, and has created a computer network system. These undertakings are executed by the College under the supervision of the Education Support Office after discussions by the Academic Coordination Council.

An original project of the College is the Volunteer Project : “Mizubora” to assist with disaster recovery, in which students and teachers have hand-delivered bottled water

to temporary housing residents since the Great East Japan Earthquake. This on-going volunteer activity has now expanded to involve the entire university system community, including students from overseas universities and international students receiving scholarships administered by external organizations. Student participation has turned the project into an opportunity for students to reflect on multiculturalism and become involved in addressing immediate local problems. It is highly commendable that the College is making social contribution efforts through this volunteer program.

There is one issue that the College needs to address, however. No upper limit is set on the number of credits students can register in a year, permitting motivated students aiming for qualifications to take as many credits as possible. The College does provide students with course planning advice, but given there are students who register too many credits in the academic year, the current practice inadequately ensures credit validity. The College is advised to examine and review both student course registration and student learning data, and develop measures to improve teaching effectiveness.

Going forward, the College is expected to continue with its internal quality assurance efforts to address the issue raised above and to develop its characteristics within the university system for further growth.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The College initiated and continues to operate the Water Volunteer program to assist with disaster recovery, in which students and teachers have hand-delivered bottled water to temporary housing residents since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The volunteer program has now expanded to involve the entire university system community, including students from overseas universities and international students receiving scholarships administered by external organizations. As a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on multiculturalism, the project is a commendable effort that has developed into an educational activity also helping to address immediate local problems.

Suggestion for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- There is no upper limit on the number of credits students can register in a year, permitting motivated students aiming for qualifications to take as many credits as possible. The College does provide students with course planning advice, but given there are students who take too many credits in the academic year, the current practice inadequately ensures credit validity. The College is advised to examine and review both student course registration and student learning data, and develop measures to improve teaching effectiveness.