

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Kagoshima Prefectural College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Kagoshima, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2017	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2018 – March.31.2025)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Kagoshima Prefectural College

Overview

The Kagoshima Prefectural College (hereafter, the College), which originated as an advanced course (3-year course) attached to the Prefectural First Higher Girls School in 1922, was founded as the Kagoshima Prefectural College, Junior College Division in 1950. Following the departmental reorganization in 1995, the college currently has the Department of Literature, the Department of Life and Environmental Science, the Department of Economics and Business Administration, and the Department of Economics and Business Administration, Night Course in Kagoshima City, Kagoshima Prefecture.

With respect to the issues indicated in the previous accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the College has generally made efforts for improvements and produced results, while it is still making efforts towards the promotion of barrier-free facilities and equipment and other improvements.

This accreditation review confirmed that the College is carrying out various activities to achieve its new basic policy, which it set under the leadership of the President based on its missions and goals. The results of those activities can be seen in a high employment rate, qualification acquisition rate, and actual achievement of transfer to four-year universities. Further, based on its basic policy of contributing to regional promotion and vitalization as the sole prefectural junior college in the prefecture, the College not only continuously provides open lectures but also promotes cooperation with regional companies to promote research project initiatives with the “dried bonito flakes” industry and the “tea” industry. These activities are highly commendable. Moreover, the College provides overseas training programs in areas of various cultures and languages in the U.S., Europe and Asia, and it is diligently working to dispatch exchange students abroad under agreements. As the College actively and continuously promotes the acceptance of exchange students, and the students and faculty members work together to promote international exchanges, significant international initiatives are being undertaken such as exchanges with a university in Hawaii, and student exchanges with universities in the U.S. and Germany.

However, according to the number of professors required under the Standards for Establishment of Junior Colleges, the Major in Food and Nutrition of the Department of Life and Environmental Science is short by one professor, which is a violation of law and must be rectified as soon as possible. The College also needs to improve issues such as the system for

checking descriptive content in syllabuses, and measures to substantiate credits at the Department of Literature and the Major in Life and Environmental Science of the Department of Life and Environmental Science, and to work towards assuring and improving educational quality.

In order to undertake these efforts, it is important to activate the internal quality assurance system, which is a mechanism for improvements based on self-study and evaluation. However, although the College established the Assessment Committee and there are several committees that are responsible for solving current college-wide issues, it cannot be said that an internal quality assurance system that leads to improvements from an organizational perspective is adequately functioning. The College is expected to clarify the process leading to improvements, endeavor to improve various issues, and lead to the development of the college.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Center for Regional Studies promotes a variety of research projects including joint projects and individual projects related to area studies. Specifically, it has promoted cooperation with local companies engaged in the local “dried bonito flakes” industry and published literature as one of the achievements of that project. The Institute also promotes cooperative and joint research with companies and groups involved in research related to the local tea industry, and gives results back to the community at large by, for example, developing and commercializing tea. Moreover, the institute actively gives lectures on remote islands and in remote places such as the Amami Satellite Program. These initiatives are commendable for being in line with the College’s philosophy of “contributing to regional development.”
- In addition to the regional activities, students write an internet blog set up with a Chinese University and introduce areas in Kagoshima focusing on tourist areas in both Japanese and Chinese languages. The blog is visited by many people in China as well and has contributed to regional tourism. The College also has a long history of research exchanges with a German university and has produced joint research results in the form of the publication of foreign and Japanese books. These activities are highly commendable.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The Department of Literature and the Major in Life and Environmental Science of the Department of Life and Environmental Science have no measures to substantiate credits by, for example, limiting the maximum number of credits for which students can register. This issue should be rectified in light of the purpose of the credit system.
- The system to check the descriptive content of syllabuses needs to be improved to promote adequate learning by students.

Education and Research Environment

- The College should promote making all college buildings barrier-free in a planned way.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Although the Assessment Committee has been established with respect to the internal quality assurance, there are several committees that are responsible for solving current college-wide issues, and there is no adequate system to activate the internal quality assurance system, which constantly studies and evaluates activities of each committee in a panoramic manner and makes use of the results of studies and evaluations to make improvements from an organizational perspective, so the College needs to build a system to appropriately activate the internal quality assurance system and ensure that that system functions properly.

Area of Serious Concern

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- According to the number of professors required under the Standards for Establishment of Junior Colleges, the Major in Food and Nutrition of the Department of Life and Environmental Science is, in principle, short by one professor, which is a violation of law and must be rectified as soon as possible.