

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

Ishinomaki Senshu University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Miyagi, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2013	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Ishinomaki Senshu University

Notable Strengths

Education and research organization

- It is commendable that Ishinomaki Senshu University (hereafter, the University) has made efforts to reflect the needs of the local community. The University regularly examines its appropriateness as an educational and research institution from the outside by discussing and consulting with a public-interest incorporated foundation, Ishinomaki Local Higher Education Corporation. These discussions have produced steady results. This relationship has produced noteworthy results. For example, in 2013, the University established the Faculty of Human Studies in order to realize its vision (“the Spirit of Foundation and the Twenty-First Century Vision”) and to support sustainable development of local communities and the social advancement of women. The University also reorganized the Faculty of Science and Engineering to support key industries in nearby communities and to promote the conservation and restoration of the biological and ecological environment.

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that the University has carried out an educational reform to meet the educational objective of “Practical Education,” which considers the needs of the local community and the social context following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Ishinomaki Senshu University has enacted reforms to meet the newly formulated “Practical Education” objective that considers the needs of surrounding communities following the Great East Japan Earthquake. For example, it has introduced a curriculum in the Faculty of Science and Engineering that explores the roles of agriculture, forestry, and fishing in the natural environment surrounding the Ishinomaki area. It has also reorganized the coursework in the Faculty of Business Administration so that students are able to study interdisciplinary educational content across their specialized fields.

Enrollment

- It is commendable that Ishinomaki Senshu University’s student recruitment efforts have proceeded according to the principles and purposes of the University and the needs of the local communities. For example, in order to overcome the deteriorating effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake, various measures have been taken. In particular, the Student Recruitment Project was launched to fulfill the student enrollment cap and the entire faculty and staff discussed the ways to achieve the goals. The efforts have included active visits to local high schools, the unveiling of the High School-University Joint Project, and the introduction of special entrance exams for disaster victims to award scholarships, beginning in 2012. Students who entered the University with the disaster victim scholarship have a strong sense of purpose and high motivation, and have a positive influence on other students. The aim of the special entrance exams is well recognized by the applicants and the measure has been effective.

Student support

- It is commendable that the University supported the continuous enrollment of students after the Great East Japan Earthquake by offering tuition reductions to approximately one-third of the enrolled. Also, in order to address the mental distress of students immediately after the earthquake, the University conducted a survey and offered counseling, responding quickly and appropriately to the needs of each individual student. It is commendable that the University employs a long-term view and continues its concrete support of students with a long-term view, by offering economic support and psychological care for current and future students.

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that the University has been actively involved in the activities of local governments, businesses, and education by holding such events as the Miyagi Citizen's University, the "Ishinomaki Senshu University Open Course," "Youngsters' Science Festival," hands-on lectures at near-by elementary, middle, and high schools, and business management seminars. It is commendable that after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the University further promoted cooperation with local communities under the vision of the "Devoted to the Development of Socio-Intelligence." In addition, the University has been actively involved in the reconstruction of local communities by implementing various industry-academic-government collaborative activities such as the "Reconstruction Coexistence Project" to facilitate education and research. The results of such activities have been shared domestically and internationally.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- The Faculty of Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Business Administration do not clearly state the requirements for completing programs in their degree granting policies. Also, the relationship between the policies for awarding degrees and the design and implementation of the curriculum is not clear. These faculties need to examine ways to make the relationship clear and assist students in understanding requirements and policies.
- The University recognizes that it is crucial to introduce educational content and methods appropriate for students who are not able to keep up with regular classes. However, systematic efforts are lacking. This should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Business Administration and the Graduate School of Science and Engineering, depending on the major and specialized area, many courses are not offered depending on the major and specialized area. This should be improved to maintain consistency in the curriculum.
- Course evaluations are conducted throughout the University, but the results are not well utilized. This should be improved.
- The Graduate School of Science and Engineering and the Graduate School of Business Administration have not clarified the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations. These criteria should be clarified in the student handbooks of the Graduate School.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low in the following academic units: at 0.81 in the Faculty of Science and Engineering as a whole; at 0.89 in the Department of Information Technology and Electronics in the Faculty of Science and Engineering; and at 0.85 in the Department of Business Administration in the Faculty of Business Administration. These numbers should be improved. As the Great East Japan Earthquake seriously affected these numbers, a reorganization of faculties has taken place in the University. However, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap dropped sharply to 0.59 in the entire University. The University still needs to respond to this enrollment situation.

Administration and finance

- The efforts for improving the quality of administrative staff depend on the motivation of individual staff members. Little systematic effort has been taken. This situation should be improved.