

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Ohtsuki City College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Yamanashi, 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 Ohtsuki City College

Overview

The purpose of Ohtsuki City College (hereafter, the College) is “to conduct education and research of broad general knowledge and specialized knowledge and skills with high ambitions in line with the Basic Act on Education and the School Education Act, and to produce a qualified workforce that can contribute to cultural and economic development.” The College does not create medium- or long-term plans setting the overall direction of its operations, but formulates action plans for its priority goals on an item-by-item basis. In recent years, for example, the College has planned and implemented curriculum reforms and adopted the course system, demonstrating that efforts are being made to improve its education and research activities from medium- and long-term perspectives.

With respect to internal quality assurance, the College created in AY2021 a new internal quality assurance promotion system to improve the quality of its education and research activities in response to the results of the AY2015 certified evaluation and accreditation for junior colleges. The new system is not without flaws, however, with the relationship between the faculty meeting and the two bodies responsible for internal quality assurance, namely the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee and the Vision Development Committee, not clearly defined. Moreover, there are no regulations defining the roles and responsibilities of Executive Meeting. The College is advised to establish the roles and responsibilities of its organizations, and ensure the bodies in charge of promoting internal quality assurance have the capabilities to manage and support the improvement efforts of various organizations.

The College established diploma and curriculum policies in AY2016 in response to the recommendations of the previous certified evaluation and accreditation for junior colleges. The adoption of the course system has provided more organization and structure to the education program, and a graduation thesis was made a mandatory requirement as a measure to enhance educational effectiveness. The College also offers personalized, dedicated student support tailored to the situation of each individual, with faculty advisors and seminar instructors attending to students’ academic needs, and the staff of the “Career Lab” providing career guidance suitable to their post-graduation goals and aspirations. Moreover, the College plans to further revamp its course system in AY2023, a move expected to bring additional teaching improvements.

The College’s unique feature is its social cooperation and contribution activities

led by the Community Laboratory, in which teachers, staff, and students collaborate with government and civic organizations. One especially notable undertaking as a public junior college established by the city of Otsuki is the project in which the Community Laboratory worked with organizations that study tourism and population issues in Otsuki to promote efforts to address local government challenges. With the establishment of the Community Research Center now under discussion, it is expected that the College's social cooperation and contribution activities will expand and develop going forward.

Several areas for improvement were identified by the certified evaluation and accreditation, however. With respect to teaching, the College should adopt a more multi-dimensional approach for monitoring and evaluating the student learning outcomes specified in the diploma policy. Regarding admissions, the admissions policy of the Department of Economics fails to describe the academic history, scholastic standards, and skills of the students it seeks to serve. This situation should be improved.

Going forward, the College is expected to further develop its unique characteristics by taking coordinated actions to address the issues raised above and by ensuring that its internal quality assurance system functions effectively.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Community Laboratory leads the College's social cooperation and contribution activities. As part of a collaborative project with organizations that study tourism and population issues in Otsuki, for example, the Community Laboratory has addressed the specific challenges faced by the city. Discussions are underway to transform the Community Laboratory into the Community Research Center, which is a commendable move expected to lead to closer collaboration with the city government and to enhance its education and research functions.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The College fails to define the division of roles and responsibilities between the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee and the Vision Development Committee, two organizations established in AY2021 to promote internal quality

assurance and which comprise the internal quality assurance system. Furthermore, the roles and authority of Executive Meeting, a body that in effect promotes internal quality assurance, are not stipulated in the regulations. The College is advised to establish the roles and responsibilities of the bodies in charge of promoting internal quality assurance, along with the relevant rules and regulations, and ensure the internal quality assurance system functions effectively under the guidance of the responsible bodies.