

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

The University of Aizu



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Fukushima, 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 University of Aizu

Overview

The University of Aizu (hereafter, the University) was opened in 1993 in Aizuwakamatsu City, Fukushima Prefecture as a university solely dedicated to computer science and engineering, with the objective “to Advance Knowledge for Humanity.” In addition to the existing Undergraduate School of Computer Science and Engineering, the University added a Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering later, establishing a master’s program in 1997 and a doctoral program in 1999. It was reorganized as a public university corporation in 2006 and currently carries out education and research activities in one undergraduate school, one graduate school and related facilities.

After its accreditation review by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (now the National Institute for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education) in 2010, the University has been working sincerely toward addressing the low rate of student enrollment in the master’s program pointed out in the review. Although improvements have been made regarding this matter as a result, the University still recognizes it as an issue and is striving for further improvements with a focus on internal students advancing to graduate studies.

One of the University’s initiatives, aimed at developing computer specialists adept in English is providing students with an excellent English language education. One part of this initiative is allowing all students to write and present a graduation thesis in English. The University stands out for developing computer scientists and engineers who can use English flexibly.

On the other hand, there are several issues that need to be addressed. The maximum number of credits that students can register for in a year in the undergraduate school is high. The undergraduate and graduate schools share the same admission policy, and separate policies have not been formulated for each school. The degree award policy and curriculum design policy for the Master’s and Doctoral programs in the Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering are not distinct. In the doctoral program, research work and course work have not been appropriately combined, and the research supervision plan has not been clearly indicated to students in the master’s program is not indicated clearly to the students. These are all issues that

should be addressed.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- Based on a stance of developing researchers and technicians capable of succeeding in the global market, the University has implemented a number of measures aimed at providing students with an education in both general and specialized subjects that is consistently aimed at helping them learn to use English as a tool. First, it has established a policy that all students must write and present a graduation thesis in English. Secondly, students are educated in the English skills during their first two years that they will need in the course of their university education. Finally, third and fourth-year students take specialized courses that are taught in English.. It is commendable that the University helps all students acquire English language skills necessary for their specialized fields through such initiatives.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The University has formulated the University of Aizu Regional Contribution Policy under one of its founding goals, “contribution to industry and culture in Fukushima.” Under this policy, the University deploys faculty to educational institutions within and outside Fukushima Prefecture, holds visiting lectures in high schools, and organizes public lectures for prefecture residents (TRY series). In addition, its University-Business Innovation Center serves as an interface and holds open innovation (AOI and KOI) conferences together with private corporations and local government officials. It also established the University of Aizu Revitalization Center to support recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and set up the new Laboratory for leading-edge ICT in Aizu (LICTiA) to advance the University of Aizu IT Entrepreneur Development Project. It is commendable that the University collaborates with and contributes to society through various projects. In particular, it hosts the All-Japan High School Computing Contest (PC Koshien), a high-level personal computer contest for high school and technical college students nationwide, in cooperation with Fukushima Prefecture and Aizuwakamatsu City. It is commendable that the University has

been contributing for many years to the advancement of computer-related technical skills among high school students across Japan.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The degree award policy of the Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering does not differentiate between the master's program and the doctorate program. This should be addressed, and a separate degree award policy should be formulated for each program.
- The curriculum design and implementation policy of the Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering does not differentiate between the master's program and the doctorate program. This should be rectified, and a separate curriculum design and implementation policy should be formulated for each program.
- The curriculum for the doctorate program in the Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering does not appropriately combine course work with research work. The University should provide educational content suitable for the program by reviewing it in light of the program-based graduate school system.
- The maximum number of credits a student can register for in one year in the Undergraduate School of Computer Science and Engineering is high at 56. This issue should be rectified in light of purpose of the credit system.
- The research supervision plan for students in the master's program of the Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering has not been made sufficiently clear to the students. This issue should be rectified.
- The master's thesis and doctoral dissertation review criteria in the Graduate School of Computer Science and Engineering have not been clarified. This should be addressed and the criteria for each program should be clearly stated in "Campus Guide" and other materials.

Enrollment

- The undergraduate and graduate schools share the same admission policy, and separate policies have not been made for each school. This issue should be addressed, and separate admission policies should be formulated for each program in the undergraduate and graduate schools.