

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Tsu City College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Mie, 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 Tsu City College

Overview

Tsu City College (hereafter, the College) was founded by Tsu City in April 1952 as a junior college with the Department of Law and Economics Night Course and the Department of Home Economics based on the mission statement: “Japan’s postwar restoration begins with school.” The Department of Law and Economics Day Course was later added in 1969 and the Department of Home Economics was renamed the Department of Science of Living in 1990. At present, the College consists of two departments that include the Department of Law and Economics (Day and Night Courses) and the Department of Science of Living (major in Food and Nutrition and major in Science of Living).

The remarks (areas of improvement) in the previous accreditation by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation’s (current National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education) in 2010 included (1) low quota fulfillment in the Department of Law and Economics Night Course, and (2) failure to upgrade the College’s facilities and equipment. These issues were addressed with improvement measures demonstrating a certain level of achievement.

This latest accreditation review confirms that the College specifies its educational missions, goals, and policies while undertaking various initiatives ranging from education and research to community contributions. In March 2008, the College formulated the “College Missions” comprising the three areas of education and research, community contributions, and college management to engage in its activities as a higher education institution. In terms of education and research, the Department of Law and Economics Day Course has organized educational programs offering basic to advanced classes in law, economics, and business administration, helping students deepen their understanding through small-group seminars. The Department of Law and Economics Night Course admits a diverse group of students from high school graduates to adult learners of all ages, creating a unique environment to interact with different generations. The Department of Science of Living’s major in Food and Nutrition has produced nutritionists who play an active role in hospitals, welfare facilities, and local governments. The Department of Science of Living’s Social

Welfare and Psychology Course offers programs for its students to acquire basic practical knowledge on welfare as well as obtain basic qualifications for the certified social worker examination after gaining practical experience. The Department of Science of Living's Housing and Environmental Design Course has organized educational programs that apply to the designated subjects for the first-class and second-class architect examinations. In these ways, the College emphasizes practical education while contributing to human resource development for supporting the local community.

In addition, after establishing the Research Laboratory for Comprehensive Regional Studies to realize its mission of community contributions, the College has set up different organizations, including the Regional Collaboration Committee, the Center for Community Collaboration, and the Institute of Regional Studies, to promote various social contribution and collaboration activities throughout all departments.

On the other hand, there are challenges that need to be addressed. First, even at the time of site-visit, the purpose of each department had not been set in the school code or equivalent regulations, and also the regulations pertaining to student disciplinary procedures had not been stipulated. Despite improvement measures being implemented for these issues after the site-visit, a system for properly responding to changes in the legal requirements has yet to function effectively. This situation requires improvement, including developing an appropriate organizational structure. In terms of educational aspects, the "reverse cap system" has been introduced to ensure credit validity, but this initiative has proven insufficient. Further improvement is required in light of the purpose of the credit system. Moreover, the College's education and administration buildings are deteriorating. For the College to play a role as a human resource development base in the local community, this issue should be addressed by discussing specific solutions such as new construction or renovations. To meet these challenges, the College first needs to thoroughly discuss its future vision both within the school and with Tsu City.

In the coming years, the College is expected to make further progress in each area of education, research, and community contributions by clarifying the responsibilities of the advisors to the College's president and encouraging collaboration between the top management and all academic/administrative staff members to articulate and realize its future vision.

Notable Strength

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that based on its mission statement the College has established organizations such as the Regional Collaboration Committee, the Center for Community Collaboration, and the Institute of Regional Studies to promote a wide variety of social cooperation and contribution activities across all departments. These activities include (1) offering lifelong learning opportunities; (2) collaborating with high schools; (3) cooperating with industry and government; (4) cooperating with municipal governments; (5) collaborating with local universities; and (6) supporting student volunteer activities. Above all, it is highly commendable that to combine educational activities with community contributions, the College plays a role as a training institution for local government officials, and that its students majoring in food and nutrition participate in joint product development with local bakers.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The “reverse cap system” has been introduced in the Department of Law and Economics Day Course and the Department of Science of Living, but this measure does not effectively ensure credit validity. In addition, no measures are taken for credit validity in the Department of Law and Economics Night Course. These situations should be improved in light of the purpose of the credit system.

Education and Research Environment

- The College’s education and administrative buildings were constructed 48 years ago, and there are concerns about the deteriorating conditions of these buildings. This issue should be addressed by discussing specific plans for renovations.

Internal Quality Assurance

- Until improvements were made following the site-visit, the purpose of the departments was not stipulated in the school code or equivalent regulations, and the regulations on student disciplinary procedures were not specified as required in the partial revisions of the School Education Act and the Ministerial Ordinance for Enforcement of the School Education Act (overhaul and revisions of internal rules). In light of these problems, the system for properly responding to change in legal requirements is not operating adequately. This situation requires improvement, including the development of an appropriate organizational structure.