

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

The University of Aizu Junior College Division



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 Junior College Division

Overview

The University of Aizu Junior College Division (hereafter, the Junior College) was founded in 1951 as Aizu Junior College, a single department college with the Department of Commerce. It was renamed Fukushima Prefectural Aizu Junior College in 1957, and established the Department of Home Economics in 1958, and then the Department of Food and Nutrition, the Department of Design, and the Department of Social Welfare in 1980 to meet the needs of the times. It was renamed the University of Aizu, Junior College Division, with the establishment of the University of Aizu in 1993. In 2006, it became a junior college established by Public University Corporation, The University of Aizu (Public University Corporation of Aizu, The University of Aizu, Junior College Division) when University of Aizu was incorporated. The Junior College established the Department of Early Childhood Education in 2016 and abolished the Department of Social Welfare in 2017, and made a new start as a junior college in Aizuwakamatsu City comprised of the Department of Management and Design, the Department of Food and Nutrition, and the Department of Early Childhood Education.

The Junior College underwent accreditation review by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (now the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)) in 2010. In that accreditation review, it was indicated that the response rate of non-full-time faculty members to class evaluation results is low, and that the book storage space in its library is too small. With respect to the former problem, the response rate has been increasing due to initiatives such as striving to inform non-full-time faculty members, but the latter problem remains.

This accreditation review confirmed that the Junior College is carrying out activities for the purpose of fostering nutritionists, kindergarten teachers and nursery school teachers as well as fostering human resources specialized in management and design through practical learning and practical education tied with regional contributions for reconstruction in Fukushima Prefecture. Further, as part of its social cooperation and social contribution initiatives, the Junior College set the Basic Policy on Regional Contribution related to coordination and cooperation with the local

community, and established in the Regional Recovery Center, the Regional Recovery Center Management Promotion Council comprised of council members selected from outside organizations, in which the enhancement of coordination is promoted through activity reports and exchanges of opinions, and that is playing an effective role in regional contributions through a number of lectures by dispatched lecturers and student-participatory practical learning and practical education. This initiative is highly commendable as a distinctive feature of the Junior College.

However, there are several issues that must be rectified. No separate degree award policy has been formulated for each department, In addition, learning outcomes such as knowledge and skills the students are required to acquire to complete programs are not shown. Moreover, the student dormitory is aging and that is impacting the students' living environment. There is also an issue with the library of the Junior College, being too small to secure enough space to manage books, so that needs to be rectified.

The Junior College is expected to further enhance its internal quality assurance system to further promote its education, research and social activities by leveraging its characteristics and enhance regional contributions, thereby leading to even more results.

Notable Strengths

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- It is commendable that the Junior College has systems that allow faculty members to receive external training and attend graduate school during their employment to improve their quality, and by actually utilizing those systems with faculty members, young faculty members can earn a degree during their employment.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the Regional Recovery Center has the Regional Recovery Center Management Promotion Council, which is comprised of council members selected from outside organizations, to promote enhancement of coordination through activity reports and exchanges of opinions, and that this plays an effective role in regional contributions. Further, the Junior College conducts various social

cooperation and social contribution activities such as continuous holding of special lectures for the promotion of industries and tourism as cooperation among industrial, governmental, private and academic bodies, initiatives for contract businesses in coordination with municipal governments and organizations in Fukushima Prefecture, many lectures by dispatched lecturers provided as lifelong education, student-participatory practical learning and practical education, and reconstruction support activities. These are outstanding as activities to give educational and research outcomes back to the local community and can be highly acclaimed.

Suggestions for Improvement

Education and Research Environment

- There is an issue with the library of the Junior College being too small to secure storage space to manage books. This issue should be addressed.

Area of Serious Concern

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- No separate degree award policy has been formulated for each department, and learning outcomes such as knowledge and abilities that students are required to acquire to complete programs are not shown. This must be rectified.

Education and Research Environment

- The student dormitory is aging and that is impacting the students' living environment. This must be rectified as soon as possible.