

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Kurashiki City College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Okayama, 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 Kurashiki City College

Overview

Kurashiki City College (hereafter, the College) originated as Kurashiki City Technical School for Early Childhood and Care (night course only), which was established as a school for working students in 1968. Through the establishment of the Department of Apparel Arts in 1994 at the request of local industry and the establishment and reorganization of other departments, the College has become a junior college comprised of two departments (the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care and the Department of Apparel Arts) and two advanced courses (the Advanced Course of Early Childhood Education and Care and the Advanced Course of Apparel Arts).

Following its accreditation review by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (now National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)) in 2010, with responses to issues related to “University Information Disclosure” as its major goal, the College established a new system for improvements such as establishing the External Advisors Committee, which includes outside experts, and the Self-Study Committee, chaired by the President. It has worked on improvements by sharing and transmitting within and outside the College extensive information on a variety of matters such as education and research, student life, social activities, and the institution’s operations at the College through the media such as the “(Annual) Academic Bulletin” and the “Kurashiki City College Self-Study Report.”

This latest accreditation review confirmed that the College is carrying out a number of initiatives representing its philosophy. In particular, it is commendable that initiatives such as various programs conducted in various forms (such as the Kurashiki City College public programs and the Kurashiki City College Child-Rearing College Specialized Training Programs), industry-university collaboration research with textile-related companies in Kurashiki City, on-site classes for high-school students, denim week and other events have become college-wide activities involving many faculty members and students based on cooperation with local residents. The College also has conducted “Kurashiki City College Child-Rearing College” activities since 2011 based on its missions and purposes, and it holds and provides various programs including “Kuratan Square ‘Kurarakko’ at Parent-child Interaction Square,”

“Kurarakko Counseling” which are child-rearing-related counselling sessions by nursery teachers, department teachers and other staff, “Mother Time” and “Mother Volunteer” by parents, “Parent-child Interaction Park” and “Kurashiki City College Children’s Theater Performance” hosted by students, and “Kuranchi,” “On-site Square ‘Kurarakko’” organized by students, and “Kurarakko Programs” which are specialized training programs organized jointly with Kurashiki City. These programs attract more and more participants every year and are highly acclaimed, and are producing steady results. These continuous initiatives in cooperation and collaboration with the community through parenting support are in line with the College’s missions and purposes from the perspective of practical student education, and they are expected to be enhanced and developed even more.

However, there are several issues that need to be addressed. Syllabuses do not clarify the “Class Achievement Targets” and “Academic Assessment Criteria” for many subjects, school buildings are not yet earthquake resistant, and student recruitment and public relations need to be enhanced. In order to solve these issues, the College is expected to create an internal quality assurance system in light of the size and actual conditions at the College by, for example, clarifying and integrating the roles and positions of the Planning and Operation Council, the Self-Study Committee, and the Faculty Council (including each subordinate committee) and continuing to work on improvements aimed at the further development of the College.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Initiatives that represent the College’s mission (to contribute to the development of the community) include various programs (Kurashiki City College Public Programs, Kurashiki City College Child-rearing College Specialized Training Programs, etc.), as well as Parent-child Interaction Square “Kurarakko” and “Kuranchi” planned and operated by students of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care and Advanced Cause of Early Childhood and joint product development using local resources with aid by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications’, events conveying “Denim Town Kojima,” and participation in contests related to fashion design at the Development of Apparel Arts and the Advanced Course of Apparel Arts. Through these initiatives, the

College is cooperating with and contributing to society with many of its faculty members and students involved based on cooperation with local residents, which can be highly acclaimed.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- Syllabuses do not clarify the “Class Achievement Targets” and “Academic Assessment Criteria” in many subjects. This should be rectified.

Education and Research Environment

- With respect to the earthquake resistance of the school buildings, which was indicated in the previous accreditation review, the College need to work to make those buildings earthquake resistant as soon as possible to secure the safety of students and other university members.

Administration and Finance

- Staff organization should be strengthened to enhance cooperation with society, entrance exams, and public relations.

Internal Quality Assurance

- An internal quality assurance system needs to be developed in light of the size and actual situation at the College by, for example, clarifying and integrating the roles and positions of the Planning and Operation Council, the Self-Study Committee, and the Faculty Council (including each subordinate committee).