

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Nakamura Gakuen University Junior College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukuoka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Nakamura Gakuen University Junior College

Overview

Adhering to the founding principles consisting of “base for human education,” “basis of educational practice,” and “basics of education and research,” Nakamura Gakuen University Junior College states as its purpose to “contribute to the development of society by conducting education and research and offering the outcomes to society at large, in accordance with the Basic Act on Education and School Education Law and in line with the founding principles of Nakamura Gakuen.” In order to achieve its founding principles and purpose, Nakamura Gakuen University Junior College has established educational objectives for the junior college and individual departments, as well as formulating the Nakamura Gakuen 2030 Vision and three-year medium-term comprehensive plans in an effort to promote initiatives for improving and enhancing educational and research activities, as well as checks and reviews.

As for internal quality assurance, the Nakamura Gakuen University (including the Junior College) Advisory Council (hereinafter “Council”) is responsible for internal quality assurance on a university-wide level. In 2020, the Council implemented restructuring measures, such as establishment of the Self-Study Committee, for the purpose of increasing the presence of and strengthening the self-study functions that had been incorporated in the FD Center. Under the current system, the Self-Study Committee, which is responsible for self-study, and the FD Center work together to formulate business plans, as well as conducting checks and reviews and making improvements in accordance with our association’s Junior College Standards. Although the Council supervises this system, it is not involved in initiatives for improvement, which are implemented through cooperation between the Self-Study Committee and the FD Center. Therefore, the Council, which is the organization responsible for the promotion of internal quality assurance, is expected to play an appropriate role alongside the organizations above to ensure university-wide management of the internal quality system.

Regarding education, the Junior College has set department-specific educational objectives in line with its purpose and educational objectives, has established department-specific degree award policies (diploma policies) and curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policies) in accordance with the objectives, and strives to conduct effective education in line with these

policies. The Junior College presents the curricula in a coherent and systematic manner by a course-taking chart and a subject numbering system and by visualizing the relationship of individual subjects to the degree award policy and curriculum design and implementation policy. The Junior College has formulated its own new Assessment Plan for measuring learning outcomes, employing a variety of means such as on- and off-campus questionnaires and rubric evaluation to this end. Furthermore, the Junior College plans to improve organizational learning support by the Transfer Admission Support Committee, among other organizations, for students who want to transfer to the four-year university, and actively offers support in line with career trends among students.

The Junior College offers a variety of support programs in accordance with its policy. At the Learning Support Center, which is an attached facility, former teachers from the adjacent junior and senior high schools and Japanese language teachers provide detailed supplementary tuition based on a variety of methods for both Japanese and international students. Users from the Junior College are increasing and show a high rate of satisfaction, making it a remarkable endeavor.

In the area of social cooperation and social contribution, the Social Cooperation Promotion Center and the Cooperation Promotion Division, a clerical organization, support and promote a diverse range of activities based on interuniversity cooperation, local cooperation, and industry-government-academia cooperation. Of particular note is the N Project, a selection-based local exchange activity that students plan and manage independently. This initiative connects junior college students' learning with services to the community, enabling students to develop an independent attitude and understand the importance of local contribution activities. This is a highly commendable initiative that is aligned with the Junior College's social cooperation and social contribution policy.

There are, however, issues that should be considered. The Division of Early Childhood Care and Education sets a separate limit on the number of credits students aiming to acquire licenses/qualifications can register for in a year, which has caused many students to register for almost the maximum number of credits in their first year. Although the division provides guidance for taking courses and has revised the number of subjects and class periods, the Junior College should continue to take the appropriate measures to ensure credit substantiation.

Going forward, the JUAA hopes the Junior College solves these issues through internal quality assurance efforts and accelerates its many distinctive initiatives for further development of its program.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- The Junior College has established the Learning Support Center as an attached facility, in which former teachers from the adjacent junior and senior high schools and Japanese language teachers provide supplementary tuition to both Japanese and international students. For example, the center offers individual tuition on specific subjects to students who did not select a subject that is necessary for acquiring a qualification or study in their department when they were in high school. The center also offers the following: basic courses on pre-university subjects, employment examination courses, courses on the examination for transferring to the four-year university, Japanese study meetings and exchange events for international students, etc. Learning Support Center users from the Junior College have been increasing in recent years, and questionnaires clearly show that users have a high rate of satisfaction. Thus, the Junior College provides a variety of detailed support programs through the Learning Support Center, which is a remarkable initiative.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- In the N Project, a selection-based local exchange activity that students plan and manage independently, students leverage the features of their respective departments in a range of activities, such as performing plays for local children. Through participating in the planning and management of the N Project, students can develop an independent attitude, teamwork skills, and competencies for working persons and understand the importance of local activities. Moreover, this initiative is aligned with the policy on social cooperation and social contribution presented in the Policies for Achieving Our Purpose in Line with Our Principles.