

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
for Professional Graduate Business School**

**Graduate School of Business Administration,
the University of Kitakyushu**



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Fukuoka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2026)	

**Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results
for the University of Kitakyushu Graduate School of Business
Administration**

To achieve the established goal of “developing highly ethical and globally-minded specialists who can lead their field with problem-solving skills and a wide range of specialized knowledge to promote innovative business structures and organizational reforms in both for-profit and non-profit organizations”, the Management Program of the University of Kitakyushu Graduate School of Business Administration works to train leaders skilled in their three educational objectives of autonomous behavior based on advanced morality, specialized knowledge and techniques, and advanced problem-solving skills and self-expression.

This program takes advantage of the unique business characteristics of the Kitakyushu region, resolves local issues, and undertakes various initiatives aimed at developing leaders that possess advanced management skills. Specifically, the curriculum offers newly established courses such as Skills to Improve Manufacturing Competitiveness and Family Businesses aimed at strengthening management skills for SMEs, etc. alongside social business courses and courses on Public Management, etc. to foster and improve management skills for non-profits involved in medicine and social programs. The educational method has been devised to incorporate actual regional businesses into the curriculum through intensive study of local businesses and organizations, case study work during classes based on business that incorporate alumni, and more. As a method for addressing the needs of students and the region, the program provides a variety of opportunities for dialogue, such as offsite meetings where students and full-time faculty can discuss topics as well as lunch meetings where student representatives and full-time faculty can exchange opinions in order to genuinely improve classes and maintain facilities based on those opinions.

The program also supports lifelong learning for alumni by promoting collaboration with alumni, inviting them into classes as guest speakers, asking them to provide material for study, and holding Practical Management Seminars, discussion groups using examples from local businesses and organizations in collaboration with the alumni association. In addition to those efforts, the joint establishment of Socio Fund Kitakyushu, a collaboration between alumni and full-time faculty aimed at developing and supporting the growth of social ventures in Kitakyushu, is a distinctive feature in the development of human resources that promote regional businesses.

In this way, the program provides aggressive and multi-faceted initiatives aimed at developing leaders that can provide quality management to both the public and private sectors. However, the following issues should be addressed.

First, outside of regional collaborations and the program's curriculum and education method mentioned above, a wide range of established initiatives such as international collaborations focused on the Center for Chinese Business Studies and business forums for human resource development in collaboration with governmental agencies and each organization, etc. are being expanded and strengthened, but the direction and mid- and long-term strategies for the goal of this program are not always clear. The relationship between the University's mid-term plan and the annual plan should be clarified and strategies to realize the vision and the mid- and long-term vision of the program should be organized.

Next, the University is developing new courses and initiatives to respond to the needs of students and the region, but these inevitably increase the burden placed on faculty. The curriculum offers a plethora of courses, but available courses should be better organized and regulated to improve course results. Because each full-time faculty member is responsible for teaching a course, some courses like Group Project, where freshmen acquire the core knowledge required for case studies, only had 1 or 2 students enrolled. We also expect the program to bolster the administrative bureau and operate effectively and efficiently in order to proactively develop support for online learning and PR activities that use IT.

As a business school rooted in the region, this program must respond rapidly to the needs of the area and understand its unique characteristics, such as the complicated budget processes that result from the University's establishment as a public professional graduate school of management. On the other hand, because all faculty past and present are implementing diverse and strategic initiatives that proactively draw upon their experience and professional network, we expect that the University will tackle the above challenges and further develop human resources that can take the lead in management of the region.