

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Saitama Institute of Technology

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Saitama, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2012	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2020)	
Related Links	
Saitama Institute of Technology: http://www.sit.ac.jp (in Japanese)	
Full Text of the Accreditation Results (in Japanese): http://www.juaa.or.jp/accreditation/university/result_2012.html	
Accreditation Standards, Process and other related information (in English): http://www.juaa.or.jp/en/accreditation/university.html	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Saitama Institute of Technology

Notable Strengths

Student support

- It is commendable that the Saitama Institute of Technology has devised measures to promote research activities at the institute. In particular, in order to enhance the motivation of graduate students to conduct research in particular, the Saitama Institute of Technology awards special monetary prizes to those graduate students whose papers are published in peer-reviewed academic journals while they are enrolled.
- It is commendable that the institute has made significant efforts to prevent students from withdrawal. In particular, the institute has established a system of academic and social support for students, in which a faculty advisor and a staff deputy advisor are assigned to each student. By creating a carte for each student to share records of weekly student attendance for compulsory classes and information about students' lives, faculty and staff advisors cooperate in advising students who miss classes.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- In the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Engineering, research-based classes such as "Special Research" and "Special Study" are offered, but lectures are not. The institute should improve its education by offering a coursework that appropriately combines lecture and research classes.
- In all of the Faculties, the maximum number of credits students can register for is high, at 50 a year. This should be improved in accordance with the purpose of the credit system.
- In all the Graduate Schools, criteria for examining degree-seeking dissertations have not been clearly stated for the students. This situation should be improved, by clearly stating them in the student handbook (and other handbooks).
- In the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Engineering, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the institute before completing the dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the university. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have the enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having doctoral programs, the institute should create measures to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.21 in the Department of Information Systems in the Faculty of Engineering. Conversely, it is low at 0.87 in the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Human and Social Studies. These numbers should be improved.

Education and research environment

- Regulations for research ethics and criteria for internal review have not been established. The institute has not articulated and disseminated its policies for research ethics. This situation should be improved.

Internal quality assurance

- Although committees for self-study have been set up across the institute and exist in each department, their activities are not sufficient to ensure the quality of education. In addition, although external evaluations have been implemented for all Faculties, their relation to self-studies has not been clarified. In the future, self-study activities should be substantially developed to construct an internal quality assurance system, so that the concerns and problems raised can lead to institutional improvements.

Area of Serious Concern*Administration and finance*

- It is not easy to find a solution in the short term for the problem of expenditure exceeding revenue by more than 200%. Concrete mid- to long-term plans must be set and implemented to improve the financial situation. The plans must be examined, using data, and revised every year.