

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

Shimonoseki City University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Yamaguchi, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Shimonoseki City University

Overview

Shimonoseki Commercial Junior College, the predecessor of Shimonoseki City University (hereafter, the University) was established by the city of Shimonoseki in 1956. In 1962, the University was established as a college with a single faculty of Economics, the Department of Economics. The University established the Department of International Commerce in 1983 and the Graduate School of Economics in 2000. In 2007, the University became a legally incorporated educational institution. After establishing the Department of Public Management in 2011 and reforming the Graduate School in 2015, the University currently has three departments in the Faculty of Economics as well as the Graduate School of Economics. Based on its three missions in “Education and research rooted in the community as an intellectual center in the local society,” the University has conducted its educational and research activities by supporting the two purposes of “Contribute to developing the local society and international society.”

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2010, the University has made efforts for improvements and reforms, including solving the issues pointed out in the previous accreditation. In particular, the University redesigned the curriculum, which took effect for first-year students beginning in 2015, and reorganized the Graduate School in the same year.

However, an issue that was noted in the last accreditation, the “prevention from holdover at the graduation grade (the rate for holdover is more than 20 percent),” is still in need of attention. While the “rate for graduation within standard course term” has slightly improved when comparing graduating students in 2016 with those in 2015, it is difficult to conclude that the rate has tangibly improved. Although the University has appropriately conducted the management of the ratio of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap in the faculty, the ratios have remained high. Therefore, JUAA hopes that the University will improve the ratio through reviews and improvements, in addition to conventional measures.

In this accreditation, it is confirmed that the University has made more efforts than before for social cooperation and social contribution, such as setting a minimum length of time that faculty members are to spend on social cooperation and social contribution activities, and attempting to enhance the organization by establishing the Archive Department in the Shimonoseki City University Institute for Collaborative Community Development.

While the University has resolved some of the issues noted in its last accreditation, JUAA expects that the University will improve on several issues, such as: describing learning outcomes needed to fulfill requirements in the policy on degree award in the Graduate School; improving the syllabus; enhancing the instruction system; and developing evaluation criteria for learning outcomes.

JUAA also hopes that the University will enhance its appropriate efforts for internal quality assurance that it conducts independently while the University’s governance is largely dependent on the rules set by the Local Incorporated Administrative Agency Law.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has actively engaged in a variety of social cooperation and contribution activities. To promote social cooperation and social contribution university-wide, the University has set a minimum length of time faculty members spend participating in social contribution activities. Moreover, in the Shimonoseki City University Institute for Collaborative Community Development, the

University has built three departments (including one for Local Investigation Research) and has published a journal, *Kanmon Regional Research*,” established an open lecture series for citizens, and collected academic documents, mostly for its “Whale Library and Museum” and “Puffer Library and Museum”.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Economics, learning outcomes such as knowledge and skills required for completion of the program are not indicated. This should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Economics, although the published syllabus uses a unified format, the quality of the content varies in each class. For example, some classes fail to offer a concrete description of teaching plans. This should be improved.