

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

Management of Technology Program, Graduate School for
Management of Technology, Nippon Institute of Technology



Basic Information of the Institution	
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**Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results
for the Technology Management Program,
the Graduate School of Technology, Nippon Institute of Technology**

The Technology Management Program in the Graduate School of Technology Management (hereafter, the Program) defines its purpose as a professional degree program “contributing to society through promoting researches on technology management as well as training high-level professionals who can recognize and solve problems at middle-ranking small and medium technology businesses by equipping graduates with basic and practical skills relevant to the field and cultivating professional ethics through teaching subjects such as corporate management, new enterprise development, entrepreneurship, and project management.” Training personnel for middle-ranking small and medium businesses in the technology sector, as mentioned above, is very important considering that such businesses are the basis of the Japanese economy. This is a distinctive feature of the Program.

In order to achieve this purpose, wide ranges of subjects related to small and medium business are offered. For example, in collaboration with the International Support Division of a national agency, Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, the subjects: Global Development of Small and Medium Business, and Case Studies in Global Development of Small and Medium Business have been established. Another distinctive feature corresponding to the specific purpose of the Program is the Research in Technology Management Project (Research on the Specific Issue), a mandatory subject where students choose their own places of employment or the corporations where they would like to work and tackle the issues related to management innovation.

The Program also makes notable efforts to improve teaching methods. For example, a system for mutual observation of classes for the faculty has been established and student course evaluations are conducted twice, at mid-term and during the final class each semester.

Although the Program makes notable efforts to improve the curriculum and methods of teaching as mentioned above, several important issues still remain that must be addressed in order to assure the quality of education.

First, in the past five years the numbers of incoming students has been below the quota of 30 students per year. Securing a stable number of incoming students is an urgent need from the several perspectives including assuring the educational quality. In order to respond to this issue, cooperation and collaboration must take place at the university level.

Also, from the perspective of guaranteeing the quality of education, in addition to securing a stable number of incoming students, the effort to properly administer the admission policy and the policy on degree award of the Program is key.

In relation to implementation of the policy on degree award, the criteria and methods of the entrance examination need to be addressed. According to the data from the years 2011 to 2013, all applicants were admitted. However, regarding the evaluation methods for the entrance exam, 40 percent of the results are based on the evaluator’s “Opinions and Impressions.” Thus, the subjectivity of the evaluator may be strongly reflected in the results, and may interfere with the objectivity of evaluation. This should be improved.

Further, among those who would like to apply for the Program, persons who have not earned any bachelor’s degree can take a preliminary qualification examination consisting of a report, a presentation, and an oral examination, and if an applicant is considered to have the same level of knowledge and competencies at or above university graduates, that person is eligible to take the regular entrance examination. As a result of this rule, nearly 40 percent of incoming students have been non-graduates of universities in the past nine years. However, in the examination for non-

graduates, basic academic capability and knowledge are not verified. This raises another issue for improvement in order to guarantee the objectivity of entrance examinations. Non-graduate applicants need to not only pass the pre-qualifying examination prior to being admitted, but their progress after the admission is also expected to be followed.

In terms of implementing of the admission policy, the Program is expected to consider the ways to verify whether the criteria and methods of the entrance examination are functioning properly within the real context of the selection process.

Meanwhile, regarding the implementation of the policy on degree award, guaranteeing the fairness and strictness of grade evaluations is an issue for improvement. This point is very important for assuring the substance of study, since the Program requires a one year term of enrollment to complete the degree and students are required to study intensively during this time. While the Program claims that the Educational Affairs Section of the faculty council confirmed no abnormal distribution of grades, only one subject gave the grade of “D” among the fifty subjects held in the year 2013 and the maximum grade “AA” accounted for 46% of all posted grades according to an evidencing materials. This places doubt on the strictness of evaluation. In the 2013 Student Achievement Report, there is also a case in which the Program accepted the credits of a student who did not fulfill the attendance requirement (attending 2/3 of classes, which is the prerequisite for receiving credits). Thus, the process of evaluating student progress needs to be examined in a systematic manner. In addition, to deal with the issues mentioned above, student reports and the student answer sheets for exams need to be preserved and managed as the basis for after-the-fact examination.

While the issues related to the policies on admission and degree award are regarded as the most important areas for improvement, several other issues are to be addressed in hopes that the Program will develop further.

The Program has several notable features, but a few issues remain. For example, in the Judicial Affairs and Professional Ethics subject, the contents cover the matter of legal systems exclusively, but it would be more desirable to expand the content for the purpose of cultivating the professional ethics of management. The Project Management Coordinator (PMC) Certification Exam Preparation Course is offered for the purpose of passing the PMC certification exam carried out by the nonprofit organization, Project Management Association of Japan. The status of this course needs to be clarified and the contents and title of the course need to be reconsidered.

Regarding educational methods, the development of regulations and procedures for course changes and the procedure for making claims regarding grades remains an issue.

Regarding the evaluation of educational outcomes, assessment of educational outcomes of graduates of the Program has not been conducted at this point, nor have evaluations of graduates by their employers. From the perspective of assuring the quality of education, an organized system to examine educational outcomes from multiple angles and to reflect on the results of examinations in educational content and methods is expected to be established.

Regarding personnel support, there is only one full-time staff member, and the administrative organization is expected to be bolstered. Also, since 2014 a tenured faculty (professor) has taken the responsibility of the chief clerk, but the name of “chief clerk” is not appropriate for the actual content of the work. The job duties need to be clarified and the name of the position should be changed.

Japan University Accreditation Association expects that by properly responding to the issues above, the Program will achieve its specific purpose to a high degree and contribute to the development of our country’s economy and society.