

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

The Management of Technology Program, the Graduate School
for Management of Technology, Niigata University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: National	Location: Niigata, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016 – March.31.2021)	

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for the Management of Technology Program,
the Graduate School for Management of Technology, Niigata University**

The Management of Technology Program (hereafter, the Program) in the Graduate School for Management of Technology, Niigata University, defines its mission as “to make continuous contribution to local development by providing middle-level engineers, managers, and successors who are the driving force in restructuring local industries with opportunities for reeducation by the use of Management of Technology to cultivate abilities to grasp and administer technology and management synthetically, and for education to qualify for a career up to high-level technical administrator or high-level managerial administrator.” Under this mission, the Program states its particular purpose as “to train highly specialized professionals who have skills and abilities to improve the quality of management continuously and innovatively, and who can solve the issues of industries in Niigata from the perspective of integrated management based on the synthesis of technology and management.” A notable strength of the Program is the clear statement of its particular purpose as contributing to development of the specific local area by focusing on the management issues major industries face there.

To achieve this purpose, the Program defines five abilities for professional knowledge and for continuous development of local industries as: (1) the ability to form and structure an organization in order to best utilize that organization’s knowledge and expertise; (2) the ability to reform the organization so that it takes risks; (3) the ability to plan and execute an effective distribution of resources; (4) the ability to successfully develop ideas; and (5) the ability to improve competitiveness through communication with the market. The Program clearly states in the policy on degree award that mastering these abilities is required. Also, in order to have students master these abilities, the instructors practice educational methods that bridge the theory and practice. One example of these educational methods, Technical Visits, or study tours of companies, where students visit companies to inquire about and discuss issues of technology and management, is highly effective educationally in helping students understand the substance of business management. This method is hopeful to be developed further.

While it is commendable that the Program has made contributions by training talented persons who can lead development of the local economy, some issues remain to guarantee its consistency and sustainability as a professional degree program and assure the quality of education.

First, the Program should formulate a mid- and long-term vision concerning the distribution of resources and organizational capability into the future. While the Program’s future plan and implementation policy are formulated by the Future Plan Committee, which consists of five faculty members including the head of the Program, the content does not indicate the direction of the Program as a whole. In the future, during the process of formulating the third midterm objectives and midterm plan, the Committee should pay more careful attention to these points.

Also, in regard to the curriculum design policy, the Program should clarify the corresponding relationship between the policy and the actual curriculum, make it more concrete, and demonstrate it in the regulations, in the brochure, and on the web page of the Program.

In addition, the Scheme of the Educational Program, which offers the standard for formulating the Program’s curriculum, is weak concerning training talented persons with a global perspective. The Program should improve this point.

In regard to the educational method, while notable efforts have been made, the content of the syllabi should be consistent among courses. Also, in regard to assessment of academic achievement, the present situation, in which most students are given the best grade, should be changed. The Program should administer a thorough, fair, and strict

assessment by setting appropriate criteria to evaluate the degree of learning.

With regard to the faculty organization, a disproportionate number of faculty members are between sixty and seventy years old because the goal has been to employ faculty with rich practical experience. This means that many faculty members will soon reach retirement age. To prepare for this problem, the Program should formulate mid- and long-term personnel affairs plans, including a faculty employment plan. Moreover, there are presently no female full-time faculty members, and thus the Program should pay attention to gender parity in formulating the faculty organization.

The Program underwent the review of the Certified Evaluation and Accreditation by Japan University Accreditation Association (hereafter, JUAA) in 2010. While JUAA accredited the Program at that time, it pointed out three serious issues and ten items for consideration. Subsequently, after examining the Improvement Report submitted in July 2013, JUAA has observed improvements in those three serious issues, but some items for consideration were expected to be improved. Therefore, JUAA examined those items again in this accreditation review. It became clear that the counterplans are insufficient in terms of formulation of the midterm vision, consideration of the direction for globalization, and introduction of sabbatical leave, and therefore the Program still needs to work on improving those issues.

JUAA believes that by properly responding to those issues, the Program will be able to develop its educational program to pursue its distinct purpose and make further contributions to the growth of local industries.

Finally, it is regrettable that the Program expressed its intention to stop recruiting students after 2016. JUAA strongly recommends that the Program continue to improve its education and research activities considering the result of this accreditation and make efforts to maintain and improve the educational level for current students.