

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

The University of Shimane Junior College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Shimane, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2018	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2026)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the University of Shimane Junior College

Overview

The University of Shimane Junior College (hereafter, the Junior College) was founded upon the integration of the original Shimane Prefectural Women's Junior College, created in 1961 (renamed Shimane Prefectural Shimane Women's Junior College in 1964) with the merger of two vocational schools, and Shimane Nursing Junior College, created in 1995 with the merger of two nursing schools. In 2007, the two junior colleges were integrated into the University of Shimane and incorporated. With the mission goals of becoming a college that “fosters the ability to inquire and execute,” “collaborates with regional communities,” and “responds to regional needs,” the Junior College's Matsue Campus operates three departments: the Department of Health and Nutrition, the Department of Childcare, and the Department of Arts and Sciences. The Department of Health and Nutrition became a four-year university department in 2018.

After the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA)'s evaluation and accreditation in 2011, the Junior College has worked toward various improvements. For example, the committees including the Self-Study Committee have reviewed the number of graduation credits required for the Department of Health and Nutrition and the Department of Childcare, and discussed the possibility of setting a yearly maximum course load for the Department of Arts and Sciences. The Junior College has also revised the school code and rules for taking courses.

This accreditation review confirms that the Junior College has undertaken various unique initiatives to achieve its mission goals. In particular, it established the “Kira-kira Dream Project” to support students in voluntary and independent projects and provide financial assistance. It also organizes meetings to work with guardians as a support measure for students. In addition, it is commendable that the Junior College actively engages with regional communities by encouraging students to read to children at “Story Restaurant for Children,” an on-campus library with an assortment of picture books and children's literature, and by hosting the “Childcare Festival” in the “Child Culture” course to apply what students learn in class to regional communities through their interaction with children. Furthermore, in addition to offering extension programs and creating a certification system for these programs, the Junior College collaborates

with local companies and organizations to conduct region-oriented research and utilize its expertise in the areas of healthcare, childcare, culture and tourism. It is commendable that the Junior College continues to make these efforts to coordinate and cooperate with regional communities in light of their needs. JUAA expects the Junior College to make additional improvement efforts to deepen and develop this collaboration.

There are several issues the Junior College needs to address, however. For example, the intended profile of the faculty is not written; the benchmark for evaluating student learning outcomes at the time of course completion is not fully developed; and the counseling system for students requires improvement to address more diversified and complicated issues, and as no faculty member has taken a sabbatical, the system has not been used in an effective way. Also, as the roles of the Education and Research Council, the Self-Study Committee, the Matsue Campus Steering Committee, and other committees are not clearly defined and difficult to understand from outside, the Junior College is expected to develop an internal quality assurance system that clarifies these roles and make further efforts for improvement, thereby leading to further development.

Notable strengths

Student Support

- The Junior College organizes meetings with the students' guardians for all departments to explain the current situation surrounding the school, provide consultation on the students' future careers, academic work, and college life, and exchange views with them. More than half the guardians participate in these meetings each time. It is commendable that the Junior College is strengthening the relationship of trust with the guardians by building a collaborative system and providing sufficient support to students.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Junior College actively engages in activities for preschool children and elementary school pupils. These activities organized by students include picture-book reading events throughout the prefecture, such as "Story Delivery" and "Story Seminar," and make use of the wide variety of picture books in the "Story Restaurant

for Children” on campus. It is commendable that through these activities the Junior College strives to achieve its mission goals by actively supporting local families raising children and interacting with local residents.

- In response to regional needs, the Junior College has created an extension program certification system to cultivate expertise in solving regional problems. It also collaborates with local organizations to conduct region-oriented research, making use of its expertise in the areas of healthcare, childcare, culture and tourism. It is commendable that the Junior College is making these efforts through the “Center for Regional Cooperation in Shimane” in order to contribute to revitalization of regional communities.