

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

Okinawa University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Okinawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2028)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Okinawa University

Overview

Okinawa University presently has three faculties and five departments, and its graduate school has one school with two majors. It holds “Toward a university of regional and future co-creation” as its mission, proactively identifying problems in the local community and devising solutions to them. In order to foster human resources capable of contributing to the local community, it aims to “thoroughly educate and research in addition to imparting extensive knowledge, develop intellectual and practical abilities, and foster promising human resources” in its regulations. In 2012, the University established the Okinawa University Charter, which elaborates upon its mission and purpose. Moreover, in 2018, the University established Okidai Vision 2028, a long-term vision fixed on how it will appear in ten years, as well as the Fifth Mid-Term Plan in order to realize that vision, and has been steadily endeavoring toward improving its educational and research activities. In addition, by holding lectures for the 60th anniversary of its founding and publishing the book *History of Okinawa University* in 2018 as part of said anniversary project, the University has been widely publicizing its mission and purpose.

With regard to internal quality assurance, the University has established a University-wide framework consisting of three organizations: foremost, the Mid- to Long-Term Planning and Self-Check Committee, which acts as the controlling organization promoting internal quality assurance; the Educational Management Committee, which undertakes the role of educational management beginning with the three policy categories of degree award policies, curriculum design and implementation policies, and admission policies; and the Educational IR Committee, which is responsible for data accumulation and analysis in order to deal with a wide variety of educational issues. Moreover, the University has established a combined top-down and bottom-up internal quality assurance system in which individuals, departments, and authorities conduct checks and reviews as well as implement improvements and progress at the three layers of the micro level, the middle level, and the macro level. However, concerning its operation, as the President, Vice President, Deans, and Director of the Academic Affairs Department are members of multiple overlapping committees, further measures are desired to ensure that the functions of each committee are unhindered.

With regard to education, all undergraduate and graduate divisions have suitably designed their curricula based on their degree award policies and curriculum design and

implementation policies. All faculties have devised measures to enable students to systematically complete courses in order by showing them curriculum maps that illustrate overarching curriculum structures and the relationship between subjects along with completion models for each department. In 2019, the University developed and formulated a University-wide rubric (DP rubric) under the initiative of the Educational Management Committee that measures how well students have acquired the abilities indicated in the degree award policies of the undergraduate and graduate divisions, and from the fact that it has been endeavoring to visualize learning outcomes by establishing its own indicators, the forthcoming results are promising.

With regard to social cooperation and contribution, the University detailed the Okinawa University Policy for Cooperation and Collaboration with Society based on its mission, “Toward a University of regional and future co-creation.” In addition, it has been proactively and multilaterally endeavoring in such initiatives as “Co-Creating an Okinawan-Model Welfare Society: Incorporating *Yui Māru* (Mutual Assistance) in Social Inclusion”, which is based at the Institute of Regional Studies Okinawa University and was selected and certified as the Private University Research Branding Project, as well as Saturday Continuing Education, which has continued since 1976. The University secures numerous opportunities for co-creation with the local community through community exchange activities, such as the Community Contact Day Care Project, the After-School Kokuba Class, and a wide variety of local residents' associations. The following examples can be described as excellent initiatives that have born much fruit in education and research: the Ryūkyū Arc Research Support program, proofreading activities for Chinese-language bulletins by students in a seminar of the Department of International Communication and creating maps of Okinawan industry by students in a seminar of the Department of Law, Economics and Management.

Hereafter, we hope the University will make greater strides by developing its numerous and characteristic initiatives by improving the function of its internal quality assurance system.

Notable Strengths

Mission and Purpose

- Since 2005, the University has offered Okinawa University Theory as a required elective, and it provides meaningful education that conveys its mission and purpose while challenging students to think about what it means to study at Okinawa

University, such as addressing issues like regional and future co-creation that contemplate the future of the University in accordance with its mission in addition to its own history, which was born under the post-war rule of the US military and grew amidst hardship. Moreover, the University published *Okinawa University Theory*, which collects transcripts of lectures, in 2018 for the 60th anniversary of its founding, and it distributes the book to interested parties in addition to students taking the course. Its education that teaches about its relationship with Okinawan society from various perspectives in an omnibus format and leads to an understanding of its mission and purpose while gaining a deep insight into the institution is also popular among students, and the fact that it publicizes the content of its lectures through publications is commendable.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- In accordance with the Okinawa University Policy for Social Cooperation and Collaboration, the University has been proactively and multilaterally endeavoring in its social cooperation and contribution activities with the Community Research Institute serving as its base. In addition to the University continuously offering the extension course for local residents Saturday Continuing Education since 1976, it has been holding the After-School Kokuba Class from 2016 while involving students and local residents in order to create a place in the community where children can safely and securely play as part of “Co-Creating an Okinawan-Style Welfare Society: Incorporating 'Yui Māru' ('Mutual Assistance') in Social Inclusion,” a research project focusing on the issue of childhood poverty in Okinawa. Also, besides it providing opportunities for students to apply what they have learned from lectures in the field while conducting social cooperation and contribution activities through the Community Contact Day Care Project and the Ryūkyū Arc Research Support program, the University has been endeavoring in popularizing its proofreading activities for Chinese-language bulletins and creating maps of Okinawan industry in the seminar activities of the Department of International Communication and the Department of Law, Economics and Management. By implementing these multilateral activities, the University has been endeavoring to return the fruits of its research to the local community and solve the local issues where it is located, and they are commendable as initiatives for realizing its mission, “Toward a university of regional and future co-creation.”