

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Tsurumi Junior College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kanagawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2023	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2031)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Tsurumi Junior College

Overview

Tsurumi Junior College was founded on the Zen Buddhist teaching of “Daigaku-EnjoHouon-Gyoji (To maintain a feeling of gratitude and strive to become a person of truth)” and the educational mission of “nurturing wise and virtuous human resources who will help promote public wellbeing and improve society and culture in line with the purpose of the Basic Act on Education and the School Education Act through providing education that enhances general knowledge, develops basic and specialized skills and competencies, and incorporates Zen philosophy.”

Operating as part of the Soji Gakuen School Corporation Group that includes an affiliate university, junior and senior high schools, and a kindergarten, the College has drawn up a medium- to long-term plan as part of “Soji Gakuen Vision 2024.” The College’s various activities, including education, student support, admissions, research, community collaboration, and public relations, are under the direction of the College Faculty Council within the framework of the group’s institution-wide organization headed by the University Steering Council. With respect to internal quality assurance, the group has put in place a system where the University Steering Council established in AY2019 is largely responsible for promoting internal quality assurance. Under this system, the Group-wide Self-Study Committee monitors and evaluates the progress of faculties, graduate schools, committees, and administrative offices in implementing the medium-term plan as well as the status of various strategies, while the University Steering Council discusses improvement suggestions and reviews to be included in future action plans. As for its efforts at the degree program level, the College Faculty Council, the working groups of the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education and the Department of Dental Hygiene, and Diploma Course Committee perform self-studies of their own education and research activities. It should be noted that the school regulations and Soji Gakuen Vision 2024, the documents that set out the overall policy and direction of internal quality assurance, fail to include the procedures, authority, and other specifics pertaining to internal quality assurance, and this situation should be improved.

The College’s two departments and Diploma Course offer curriculum based on the degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy), and evaluate student learning outcomes in accordance with these policies. A notable feature of the Department of Early Childhood Care and

Education is the emphasis placed on the Zen Buddhist values of thoughtfulness and consideration of others. The curriculum of the Department of Dental Hygiene is characterized by its aim to facilitate effective learning, with basic general education courses organized by year levels, for example, the Start-up Seminar in the first year, the Step-up Seminar in the second year, and the Career Design course in the third year, with educational partnerships established with various organizations of the affiliate university, research centers and institutes, affiliate kindergarten, and hospital.

Each department caps the number of credits students can register for in a year, but in the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education, the cap does not apply to courses taken a second time for second-year students. Besides the credit cap, various measures are implemented to ensure that students complete the required hours of learning in line with the purpose of the credit system for junior colleges. The syllabus, for example, states the recommended pre- and post-class study hours and content, as well as class formats, contents, and teaching methods, to encourage active student participation in lessons. Even with these measures in place, the actual number of credits students register for tends to be the highest in the first year in both departments. The College is advised to continue implementing systematic measures designed to ensure credit validity.

The Soji Gakuen Group, including the College, has engaged in social cooperation and contribution activities with Tsurumi Ward and local professional associations for many years as part of its education activities. Recently, students of the Department of Dental Hygiene took part in a collaborative project with Tsurumi University and Tsurumi Ward to create a picture book teaching about the importance of oral health. Published on the ward's website, the picture book was also distributed to local dentists, public facilities, nurseries, and schools. This is a commendable project that has helped raise community awareness about dental health and provide an opportunity for the participating students to learn how to take the initiative while applying specialized skills.

There is an area of improvement the College should address, however. The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap as well as the average ratios of student admissions to the admissions capacity over the past five years are low in the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education, the Department of Dental Hygiene, and the College as a whole, and improvements should be made to ensure that the College's student enrollment and admissions capacity are thoroughly managed.

Going forward, the College is expected to address the issues raised above through continued internal quality assurance activities and to achieve further growth by developing its characteristics as a junior college affiliated with the university group.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- The Soji Gakuen Group, including the College, has engaged in community collaboration activities with Tsurumi Ward and local professional associations for many years. Recently, Tsurumi University and Tsurumi Ward embarked on a collaborative project to create a picture book teaching about the importance of oral health, with students of the Department of Dental Hygiene taking part. Published on the ward's website, the picture book was also distributed to local dentists, public facilities, nurseries, and schools. This was a commendable project that not only helped raise community awareness about dental health but also provided an opportunity for the participating students to learn how to take initiative while applying specialized skills.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- The ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap were low at 0.56 in the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education, 0.83 in the Department of Dental Hygiene, and 0.70 in the College as a whole in AY2023, and the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over a five-year period were also low at 0.68, 0.86, and 0.76, respectively. These ratios should be improved with the College's student enrollment thoroughly managed.