

Mimasaka University (美作大学)

Evaluation summary

“Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.”

The institution concisely and clearly defined its mission and objectives in the school rules of the university and graduate school. It clarified the significance of cultivating human resources according to its school philosophy, and stated that its mission is to cultivate professionals with a sense of responsibility and power of execution through collaboration with communities. Such an attitude can be regarded as its originality and features. In order to deal with complex issues that local communities are facing, the institution developed and enhanced the educational and research content provided by the faculties and departments that were created. The institution’s mission and objectives were properly reflected in the mid-term vision discussed in the “Future Planning Committee” and management policy for each year, as well as diploma, curriculum and admission policies, and all of these were developed properly.

“Standard 2. Learning and Teaching”

The institution as a whole fulfilled its enrolled student quotas, and accepted students according to its admission policy. It developed its general educational curriculum design policy in view of educational objectives, and clarified an educational goal and curriculum policy for each department. The educational curriculum was systematically designed according to the curriculum policy so as to help students in each department acquire a qualification in response to social demands. The upper limit of the number of credits for which students can register for a year was specified in the internal regulations for each department. However, it is too high, so the institution is considering lowering it. In order to achieve the educational goal of “cultivation of professionals who can support community life”, the institution defined the acquisition rate for related qualifications and the employment rate for specialists as performance indicators. It has produced good results in each department’s pass rate of national examinations and employment rate for specialists, including nutritionist certified social workers, elementary school teachers and childminders, which shows the effect of efforts to achieve its goal.

“Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance”

Defining its goal in the article of endowment, the governing body of the institution has strived to ensure proper operation as a school corporation in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including the School Education Act. To achieve its mission and objectives, the institution has continued efforts to promote collaboration between the academic divisions and administrative divisions.

The institution has properly publicized educational and financial information via the website. The board of directors has performed its administrative and operational functions appropriately toward achievement of the mission and objectives.

The institution as a whole has secured and maintained a sufficient number of students to fulfill its student quotas, and has enhanced adequacy of equity capital by setting aside an allowance for

special purposes and other reserves due to accumulation of surplus of imputed income and expenditure balance. The school corporation as a whole has maintained a favorable balance between income and expenditure according to its sound operational policy, and established a stable financial base.

“Standard 4. Self-inspection and Evaluation”

In accordance with the “Mimasaka University and Mimasaka Junior College Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee Regulations”, the institution has set priority items according to its mission and objectives, and has conducted independent and autonomous self-inspection and evaluation activities periodically, with the aim of further developing its strengths.

The self-inspection and evaluation results were shared internally through various conferences, including the faculty meeting, and used for improvement. They also have been publicized to the public via the website.

The “Management Meeting” formulated a mid-term plan and management policy, which were made known to each division. The “Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee” confirmed the progress of the plan and its issues, and developed and implemented improvement measures for matters that have not produced satisfactory results. Thus, a mechanism for utilizing self-inspection and evaluation results based on a PDCA cycle has been established.

To sum up, the institution has engaged in education and research according to its school philosophy, mission and objectives. It has strived to develop and enhance its faculties, departments, etc., in order to respond to changes of the times and issues of local communities while following tradition. By accepting students according to its admission policy, it has fulfilled its student quotas as a whole, and has attracted many applicants from other prefectures. Boasting a high pass rate in the national examination and a high employment rate taking advantage of qualifications, it has established a stable financial and management base, and contributed to local communities.

For details of “Standard A. Appropriateness of the Mission of ‘Cultivating Professionals Who Can Support Local Communities’”, which is set forth as the institution’s unique initiative based on its mission and objectives, please refer to the general remarks on the standard.