

Junior College of Sapporo Otani University (札幌大谷大学短期大学部)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

Taking the teachings of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist sect, as its founding principles the Junior College concisely expresses that teaching in the words “there is not a single life that cannot be lived through.” Since the Junior College is on the same campus as the jointly established Sapporo Otani University, which is the only university in Hokkaido providing musical and arts education through its Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, it has a favorable environment as a junior college with its Department of Early Childhood Education. The teachings of Shinran Shonin are widely publicized on-campus, on the Junior College website, and during on-campus events and in the President’s lectures. In accordance with these teachings, the educational objectives, three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admissions policy and the curriculum itself are continuously reviewed.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

A policy on student admission has been stipulated and publicized, and entrance examinations pursuant to this are implemented; although the total capacity and enrollment quotas are oversubscribed the situation is improving year by year. The courses taught and a syllabus in line with the educational curriculum design policy have been prepared, and an educational curriculum consistent with the policy for awarding degrees is in place. The Junior College conducts student questionnaires and surveys of student satisfaction. With collaboration between faculty and staff and additional participation of academic administration assistants, who have graduated from the Junior College, thorough support for learning and class instruction is functioning in order to prevent students from dropping out of school.

The evaluation of academic results and awarding of credits is conducted stringently, with a Grade Point Average (GPA) result evaluation system used, and a system for launching formal objections in place. Job placement guidance is thoughtfully conducted with visits to the workplace of students who have already graduated. The Faculty Development (FD) Committee and Academic Administration Committee conduct tuition questionnaires, and the tuition improvement plans are available for perusal in the library. There are also plans for a new school building in order to respond to earthquake resistance standards.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

Regulations in line with the Junior College’s incorporated entity’s articles of endowment are in place, and appropriately operated mainly by the Board of Managing Directors. There is a kindergarten, junior and high schools as well as a university located within the grounds of the Junior College. In April 2015 the Sapporo Otani University Grand Design was drawn up, and moves are underway for the mutual exchange of information between these constituent schools and the realization of these reforms. As the President of the Sapporo Otani Junior College and the Sapporo Otani University are one and the same person, a Joint Faculty Council has been established, and is operated in a suitable manner. Pursuant to the management reform plan formulated in the 2015 academic year, the Junior College is aiming to secure a balance in income and expenditures to establish a stable financial base.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

Self-inspection and evaluation is implemented by a Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee jointly with the Sapporo Otani University, with the President acting as the Chairperson. In line with the evaluation standards of JIHEE, evidence-based research and data collation and analysis are carried out. The Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report is drawn up each year and made public. This work is mainly taken charge of by the Operation and Planning Office that is directly affiliated to the President, and it is planned that in the future Institutional Research (IR) functions will be created and systemized for self-inspections and evaluations.

In summary the founding principles of the Junior College has been permeated through the faculty

and staff, and consideration is paid to it in the mission and objectives, educational content and support for students given at the Junior College. The Junior College is on the same campus as the jointly established Sapporo Otani University and is operated closely and smoothly with it. The Department of Early Childhood Education of the Junior College has a traditional reputation in Hokkaido, and it is to be hoped that there will be deeper collaboration with the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts that is part of the University, and further development in the future under the keyword of “the arts.”

It should be noted that with regard to the Junior College’s unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on “Standard A. Social collaboration” should be referred to.