

FUKUOKA KODOMO JUNIOR COLLEGE (福岡こども短期大学)

Evaluation summary

Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.

The Junior College's founding principles of lifelong improvement through the development of individuality are clearly documented as the central pillar of all the educational activities of current students, faculty and staff. The Junior College's mission, goals and educational objectives are also stated specifically and clearly in the Junior College Regulations as being the creation of people with rich personalities, and the fostering of infant educators and nursery teachers. Furthermore, the Junior College's mission, goals and educational objectives have been systematically arranged, and reflected in the three policies of diploma policy, curriculum policy and admission policy, the educational and research organization requisite for the attainment of the above has been developed.

Standard 2. Learning and Teaching

The admission policy is made publicly known, and the Junior College has its own unique way of selecting entrants based on qualifications and suitability to work as infant carers. While the enrollment quotas have been reduced, the Junior College publicizes the significance and attractions of infant education and childcare through visits to high schools, open campuses and student-based infant education research group activities and so on, and is striving to increase the number of students wishing to enroll at the Junior College.

The Junior College's curriculum policy is made public, and the educational curriculum is systematically designed for educational curricula to foster kindergarten teachers, nursery teachers and school nurses. In the Infant Education & Research I and Infant Education & Research II lessons that all students are required to take, opportunities for the students to give presentations are provided through extramural lectures and events at the kindergarten affiliated to the Junior College, all of which are displaying substantial results. There is innovation and development in the teaching methods used for piano accompaniment method tuition. Each class has a regional advisor for the areas or prefectures where the students come from, and appropriate guidance and advice is provided while attempts are made to ensure communication between the faculty in charge and the students. Furthermore, the Campus Plan Student Web Service is run for the benefit of each and every student, enabling students to peruse the syllabus, and check the state of their acquisition of credits, study completed and attendance. Ever since the Junior College opened it has boasted a high level of student job placement at kindergartens and nursery centers etc. The full-time faculty requisite for the attainment of the Junior College's educational objectives has been appropriately posted. The Junior College grounds and buildings as well as the ground and areas jointly used with University established by the Junior College's incorporated entity satisfy all the requirements of the Standards for Establishment of Junior Colleges, and are used effectively.

Standard 3. Management, Administration and Finance

In order to assure the quality of education as stated in the Incorporated Educational Institution Tsuzuki Ikuei Gakuen Articles of Endowment and Fukuoka Kodomo Junior College Regulations, the Junior College's incorporated entity and Junior College are administered in compliance with the Basic Act on Education, School Education Act, Private Schools Act, Standards for Establishment of Junior Colleges.

The President of the Junior College serves as the President of the Junior College's incorporated entity in a directorial role. Since a director representing the education and learning division attends the Board of Directors meeting, the supreme body of management, without fail, the Junior College's incorporated entity, management and education and learning are united, and a system has been developed that enables the coordination of opinions, smooth consensus-building and strategic decision-making towards the missions and goals of the Junior College. In addition, policy is discussed and decided upon regarding the operation of the Junior College's incorporated entity, enrichment of educational and research activities and the optimization of the administrative and financial base.

As the person with ultimate authority for decision-making with regard to the Junior College's

educational and research activities the President oversees all business relating to education and research. The Junior College's decision-making organization is appropriately functioning under the leadership of the President through the Faculty Council, Department Directors' Council (Operation Council), and various committees.

Accounting procedures are appropriately implemented in line with the Accounting Standards for Incorporated Educational Institutions and Junior College's incorporated entity's accounting regulations.

It should be noted that although income and expenditure are in a severe state, as part of the Tokyo Shibuya Campus of the University established by the Junior College's incorporated entity expects to receive some relocation compensation for the removal of part of its school buildings due to a redevelopment project in Shibuya, there are hopes that a fiscal balance will be secured for the time being.

Standard 4. Self-Inspection and Evaluation

The Self-Evaluation Committee has been established in accordance with the Self-Evaluation Committee Regulations and the Regulations on Third Party Evaluations. Self-inspections and evaluations are implemented in a more or less seven-year cycle, and activities towards reform are continually underway. Evidence-based, objective self-inspections and evaluations are conducted, and a system is in place for providing feedback that can be linked with educational reform and improvements.

In summary, the Junior College places the founding principles of "lifelong improvement through the development of individuality" as its individual and distinctive quality, and this serves as the core for all the educational activities of both students at the Junior College and its faculty and staff. While there are issues concerning the financial base and income and expenditure, the Junior College Regulations clearly state the fostering of infant educators and nursery teachers as its educational objectives, and an educational curriculum has been designed for the education of kindergarten teachers, nursery teachers and school nurses. Much innovation is displayed in the tuition and student support, results are being delivered in job placement, and the Junior College is carrying out activities as a Junior College rooted in the local community.

Note that with regard to the Junior College's unique initiatives regarding its mission and goals, the general comments on "Standard A. Community contribution" should be referred to.