

Research Study on the Interim Verification of the Third Phase of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

The third phase of certified evaluation and accreditation by JIHEE is for seven years, from FY2018 to FY2024. As the third year ended in FY2020, a questionnaire survey and interview survey were conducted for universities and junior colleges that had undergone certified evaluation and accreditation during the first three years, as an interim verification of the evaluation system. The purpose is to use the data and findings obtained to examine improvements to the evaluation system for the fourth period.

Questionnaire Survey

The survey covered 74 universities and three junior colleges that had undergone institutional evaluation and accreditation by JIHEE during the three-year period from FY2018 to FY2020. The survey was conducted by requesting cooperation in the questionnaire via e-mail to the persons in charge of self-evaluation at the institutions and asking them to enter and send their answers to the questions using a web-based questionnaire system.

Questionnaire Survey Overview (University)

Year evaluated	Number of evaluations	Number of responses	Response rate
2018	15	14	93.3%
2019	17	12	70.6%
2020	42	35	83.3%

Questionnaire Survey Overview (Junior College)

Year evaluated	Number of evaluations	Number of responses	Response rate
2018	0	-	-
2019	1	1	100.0%
2020	2	1	50.0%

More than 90% of the respondents answered that certified evaluation and accreditation “greatly contributed” or “somewhat contributed” to the realization and promotion of “assurance of the quality of education,” “assurance of the quality of

administration,” and “enhancement of awareness of reform and improvement within the university.” The most common item addressed by the most recent certified evaluation and accreditation was “development of internal quality assurance system,” for which the response rate was nearly 70%. On the other hand, less than 50% of the respondents answered that the most recent certified evaluation and accreditation “greatly contributed” or “somewhat contributed” to “understanding and support of the university from society,” indicating that the certified evaluation and accreditation system is not fully recognized by society.

Interview Survey

To complement the questionnaire survey results and obtain more concrete examples, interviews were conducted with six universities selected from those responding to the questionnaire survey. Interviews were conducted with internal quality assurance staff, self-inspection and evaluation staff and others for approximately two hours, via the Internet or by a campus visit.

Interview Survey Overview

Name of university (Year evaluated)	Date of interview	Venue
Ashikaga University (2020)	Tue., October 26, 2021	Online
Den-en Chofu University (2019)	Tue., November 30, 2021	Visit
Kyoto College of Medical Science (2020)	Thu., October 21, 2021	Online
Okinawa International University (2018)	Fri., October 8, 2021	Online
Tokyo Future University (2020)	Mon., November 29, 2021	Online
Yamato University (2020)	Thu., October 28, 2021	Online

Regarding internal quality assurance efforts, each of the six universities have well-functioning PDCA cycles and the respective responsible organizations. In addition, several universities confirmed that organizations responsible for the PDCA cycle

have also been established by their corporate entities, and that they are functioning at both the university and the corporate entity.

We received various opinions and requests from each university as a result of their sincere efforts in certified evaluation and accreditation, such as digitization of a vast amount of evidence related to certified evaluation and accreditation, continuation of online on-site inspections, continuous implementation of various training sessions on certified evaluation and accreditation, and clarification of the difference between “standards unique to each institution” and “remarks.”

Members in charge of this research study

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