

Decision of Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

Wakayama University complies with the Standards for the Establishment of Universities and other relevant laws and regulations, and meets the Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Universities set by NIAD-UE.

Good practices identified by the review committee include:

- The Student Center for Independent Research in the Sciences offering “independent study” courses to encourage students to learn voluntarily and creatively through activities that include developing electric vehicles, rockets and computer graphics, with the courses developed from the university’s program selected in the Support Program for Contemporary Educational Needs offered by MEXT after the support program ended,
- The Nanki Kumano Satellite and Kishiwada Satellite offering courses specializing in local areas, seminars in collaboration with local communities, and other programs and projects, and the satellites also serving as a base for student fieldwork,
- Establishing the Senior Adviser System as part of the university’s educational activities, in which retirees, staff at NPOs, people engaged in local community activities, and others help students with their “independent study,”
- The Faculty of Tourism and the Graduate School of Tourism, the only faculty and graduate school in this area of study at national universities, actively playing the role expected by the country and local communities through education and research activities that take advantage of the natural, economic, historical and cultural characteristics of the Kuroshio cultural zone, including the Kii Peninsula, and also developing valuable human resources who can contribute to the promotion of tourism,
- The university’s project selected in FY2010 in MEXT’s Support Program for Preparing University Students for a Career, in which the university offers “Introduction to Career Design” and other courses to help many students who participate each year to be better prepared for career,
- The university’s joint project selected in FY2010 in MEXT’s Program for the Research and Development of Microsatellites, in which the university offers “Introduction to Project Management on Space,” a course where project teams of a

small number of students are organized and assigned tasks to train themselves to acquire basic knowledge and skills required for project management,

- Establishing a learning commons, a media room, a group learning room, a reference desk, a study room and a research room in the library to attract more students and play a central role in the university, efforts which resulted in roughly a 20 percent increase in the number of users compared with the previous fiscal year,
- The Health Administration Center, in which psychiatrists, public health nurses, nurses, psychiatric social workers and clinical psychologists provide “campus day care” to offer students consultation and advice regarding health; and the center’s mental support system for providing comprehensive assistance to help students having trouble learning because of a mental disorder or their inability to adapt to student life, return to school through, for example, a peer support program called “recovery program for socially withdrawal students” offered by “Amigo-no-Kai,” a self-help group of students who have experienced and overcome these difficulties,
- Mutual class observations being conducted in all faculties, with participation by many academic staff members, and the effectiveness of teaching improvements being increased by academic staff exchanging comments on classes they have observed, and
- Conducting external evaluations of the general conditions of the university with students and graduates, as stakeholders, included in the evaluation committee members.

Areas for improvement identified by the review committee include:

- An excessive admission rate above the admission capacity at some graduate schools in the graduate program.

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