

Decision of the institutional certified evaluation and accreditation:

The National Institute of Technology, Hachinohe College, complies with the Standards for the Establishment of Colleges of Technology and other relevant laws and regulations. Furthermore, it meets the Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Colleges of Technology set by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE).

Reasons for the Decision:

This college meets all 37 Standards, except Standards 3-1, 5-6, 5-10, and 6-6, which comprise the Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Colleges of Technology.

Regarding Standards 3-1, 5-6, 5-10, and 6-6, certain improvements are necessary. However, this college meets all the priority evaluation standards (Standards 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3). Considering all factors comprehensively, including materials collected during the on-site review, no significant concerns were identified regarding the management of educational and research activities. This college maintains the quality of its educational and research activities.

Points to be improved:

- 1) Air conditioners are not installed in faculty rooms, research labs, laboratories, student dormitories, etc., resulting in insufficient measures to prevent heatstroke during prolonged periods of extreme heat. (Standard 3-1)
- 2) The verification system for the level of examination questions is insufficient. (Standard 5-6)
- 3) The verification process regarding whether the same exam questions are used is insufficient. (Standard 5-6)
- 4) In some course subjects, nearly all enrolled students receive identical evaluations for assignments, failing to provide an appropriate assessment. (Standard 5-6)
- 5) While oral examinations are used for academic aptitude tests in transfer student selection, records of examinees' responses are insufficient. (Standard 5-10)
- 6) The verification process regarding whether the same exam questions are used is insufficient. (Standard 6-6)
- 7) In some course subjects, the level of exam questions is not appropriate for the educational content delivered at a college of technology. (Standard 6-6)
- 8) In some course subjects, examination questions ask for opinions on how the class was conducted. Judging from the course objectives and content outlined in the syllabus, the examination questions are inappropriate. (Standard 6-6)

The best practices identified by the review committee include the following:

- 1) As a college-wide initiative, *Self-directed Research* is provided to students. Lower-grade students identify their research topics, plan and execute experiments or investigations, and present their findings through poster presentations and submitted reports. Upper-grade students support lower-grade students' *self-directed research* as facilitators, thereby enhancing their own learning. (Standard 5-3)
- 2) The quarter system of academic terms has been in operation for 10 years. It allows frequent assessment of

learning progress while effectively scheduling experiments, practical training, and PBL courses across terms. This is integrated with *self-directed research*, enabling students to confirm their interests and abilities, leading to proactive career choices and learning improvements. (Standard 5-4)

- 3) Opportunities for overseas learning, such as the *High School Student Overseas Fieldwork Challenge*, are provided and effectively utilized. Substantial participation fee subsidies are available; in the 2024 academic year, 49 students participated in overseas study programs. (Standard 5-5)

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