

Decision of the institutional certified evaluation and accreditation:

The National Institute of Technology, Akashi 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 5-6 and 6-6, which comprise the Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Colleges of Technology.

Regarding Standards 5-6 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) The college does not verify that the evaluation of out-of-class learning for learning-based credit subjects is conducted appropriately. (Standard 5-6)
- 2) The methods for grade evaluation are unclear, such as when retakes (or supplementary guidance) and credit certification exams (or supplementary coursework) are conducted at the discretion of the course instructor. (Standard 5-6)
- 3) Systematic post-assessment verification of grading to determine whether evaluations align with the syllabus is insufficient. (Standard 5-6)
- 4) In some course subjects, the following issues were confirmed:
 - Exam questions and model answers used for grading are inadequately stored
 - Identical exam questions were used for midterm/final exams and retakes
 - Extra score points, outside the established grading criteria, were awarded, compromising fair grading
 - Grading did not follow the syllabus
 - The level of exam questions was not appropriate for the educational content delivered at a college of technologyThus, the college's efforts to ensure the objectivity and rigor of grading are insufficient. (Standard 5-6)
- 5) The methods for grade evaluation are unclear, such as when retakes (or supplementary guidance) and credit certification exams (or supplementary coursework) are conducted at the discretion of the course instructor. (Standard 6-6)
- 6) Systematic post-assessment verification of grading to determine whether evaluations align with the syllabus is insufficient. (Standard 6-6)

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

- 1) The *Creative Studio* was established in April 2024 as a hub for entrepreneurship education, *startup training camps*, and campus startup contests to cultivate startup talent. It engages in outstanding projects, from the ongoing PBL-based course *Co+work*, deepening and developing them into projects for societal implementation and productization. This enhances competitiveness in various contests and elevates the overall quality of student projects. (Standard 3-1)
- 2) A pioneer among national colleges of technology, this college introduced a naming rights system for its facilities. To improve the educational and research environment and effectively utilize facilities, it actively works to secure new revenue sources and expand self-generated income. (Standard 4-2)
- 3) In 2022, the college was selected for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's *Program for Cultivating Advanced Human Resources to Drive Industrial DX through the Fusion of Digital Technologies and Specialized Fields*. It is advancing the sophistication of its educational curriculum by incorporating DX teaching materials into practical subjects, enabling students to utilize DX in real-world settings. (Standard 5-3)
- 4) The *Global Education Center* continuously engages in diverse global initiatives. In 2024, 95 students in the regular course program and 2 students in the advanced course program studied abroad, effectively utilizing these opportunities. Furthermore, to support students studying overseas, the college has enhanced its overseas dispatch programs, starting from lower grades, established long-term study abroad systems, and developed a system allowing transfer into bachelor's degree programs at overseas universities. (Standards 5-5 and 6-5)

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