

“Case presentations of practical training programs in Japanese universities”

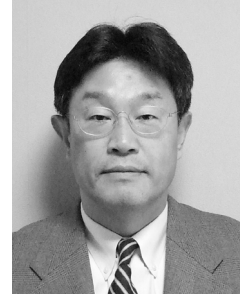
Employment Prospects and Internships at Chukyo University School of Health and Sport Sciences

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Abstract

In this paper I will give a brief introduction to the career options available to students of the Chukyo University School of Health and Sport Sciences and explain the contents and procedures of the current internship program as well as the status of student participation in the program to review the efforts of and issues facing the School of Health and Sport Sciences. Our internship program is managed university-wide by the University Career Center (Placement Division), but the status of the program such as how it is credited differs from school to school. In the School of Health and Sport Sciences units are credited in such a way that the internships are coupled with certain courses in health sciences. Therefore, the credited units are quite limited, and many students from the School of Health and Sport Sciences who participate do so as part of a non-credited optional program. However, students who have participated generally have a favorable opinion of the program. Regardless of whether it was for credit or not, most students who participate in the program are satisfied with their internship experience and consider it to have been useful. To this extent, the program has achieved a considerable amount of its objectives.

The need to cultivate employment opportunities other than physical education teaching positions has been pointed out from before, but today the School of Health and Sport Sciences is being pressed to engage in even more aggressive efforts. Amidst such circumstances, the internship program raises students' career awareness and is providing them with highly valuable opportunities to develop specific career plans. The school is currently reviewing more aggressive efforts such as converting the internship program to a for-credit one, but we are faced with many issues that need to be reviewed further, such as exploring new organizations for placement, criteria for matching students with organizations, and better pre- and post-internship instruction.