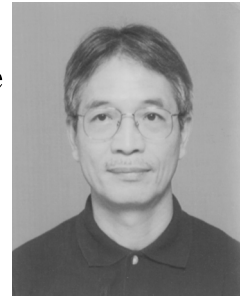


The Practical Career Training Program at the Juntendo University School of Health & Sports Science

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Abstract

Juntendo University, which advocates practical scholarship, has pursued the consolidation of its practical courses since its opening with the goal of fostering highly specialist health and physical education instructors. However, even though these programs included pre- and postliminary study, the course hours were fixed, and there was no impetus to break free from the bounds of a practicum which was limited to assessing the general situation at the location of the sport-related activities.

In 1993 the school was reorganized and its name was changed to the School of Health & Sports Science. A Department of Sports Management in the field of social science was added to the PE Department which had hitherto concentrated on the field of natural science, making up a 3-discipline structure with the departments of Sports Science and Health Science.

While other universities were aggressively introducing social PE practical training and internships, Juntendo University finally caught up, starting internships in its Department of Sports Science and Department of Sports Management in the 2003 academic year. The Department of Sports Science holds a coaching internship in the third year, in which students deepen their understanding of their respective sport through practical experience as assistant coaches to club sports teams primarily in junior and senior high schools, increasing their know-how in coaching methods and group leadership. Students decide between an intensive instruction program involving training camps and the like, and a regular instruction program with a fixed number of visits per week. Although this is extramural practical training representing a single, half-term unit, the majority of students are involved in sports club activities of their own, so the regular instruction program is not very popular.

The sports management internship is an elective subject taken only by students wishing to do so. It is extramural practical training representing a single, half-term unit, taken in the second and third years. The four full-time professors for the course are responsible for the area of their respective strengths (events, media, manufacturing, professional teams, and the fitness business). Events covers businesses involved in planning and management of sports events and advertising agencies. Media covers TV, newspapers, radio, magazines, publishing companies and so on. Manufacturing covers the manufacturing and sales industry for sporting goods and equipment. Professional teams covers the J. League and professional baseball teams popular with the students. The fitness business covers mainly commercial sports clubs and public sports facilities. However, although glamorous categories of business have always been popular with students, in many cases they do not seem to be fully aware of the actual nature of the work, so it is necessary to undertake more comprehensive preliminary instruction and training.

Sports management internships are viewed as a major part of career training. However, it is difficult to place each student where they want to be, while the various clerical procedures required are very confusing. All the universities are similarly burdened with the difficult problem of covering the personnel and financial costs arising. It is essential to seek solutions to the many problems involved, such as selecting internship hosts, negotiating the type of work performed, preliminary training, courtesy visits by faculty, evaluation (methods and documentation), postliminary education and the like.