

College of Community and Human Services

One of the most important challenges of the twenty-first century is the creation of a welfare society. In order to achieve this objective, it is essential to build a community by restructuring society with the perspective of its residents in mind. A community is a social organization created through the active participation and collaboration of its members. Within this community, many different types of people form relationships and pursue their interests. It is from this perspective that the College of Community and Human Services was established, with the aim of creating new welfare studies that integrate various disciplines related to human welfare, and sending exceptional graduates out into society. As society is in constant flux, it provides us with challenges that are broad and deep. International society is beset with frequent conflicts, a widening gap between rich and poor, and globalization-induced changes in local societies.

Japan is faced with an increasing number of social welfare problems, such as a continuously declining birthrate and aging population, juvenile crime, and various family-related problems. In response to these problems, major reforms are being carried out in social welfare, social security systems, and local government systems. All of these changes have made society much more complex, necessitating specialized study that seeks solutions to these problems. The Department of Community Development is at the cutting edge of this new welfare era as it endeavors to train students capable of conducting research, formulating plans, and carrying out activities in local governments or NGOs to contribute to community development. The Department of Social Work has established an educational program for nurturing the development of social workers, and specialists capable of shouldering the responsibility for providing welfare services to the public. Furthermore, adopting body and exercise as its key concepts, the new Department of Sport and Wellness educates students in areas related to the promotion of healthier and richer lives for people.

Continuous Dedication to Small-group Education

Everyone enrolled in either the Department of Community Development or the Department of Social Work is guaranteed the chance to study in small-group seminars (recitations) of between 10 to 20 people. These continue from the students' freshmen to senior years. Students come together in classrooms, research labs, and even the occasional training camp to deepen their learning.

Testing Theory through Experiential Knowledge from the Field

Field Studies, Community Studies, Workshops, Practical Training, and Internships are among the diverse field-study courses which the college offers to allow students opportunities to personally experience communities at the practical level.

Collaboration with the Community

Learning is advanced for the sake of constructing a welfare society through various cooperative programs. These include programs run in conjunction with the cities of Niiza and Shiki in the locality surrounding Rikkyo University's Niiza Campus for truancy support, as well as joint learning with the faculty at elementary schools. Other such programs include conferences on welfare policy, collaboration with high schools, and surveys on welfare matters conducted with the city of Takahata in Yamagata Prefecture.

Department of Community Development

Approaching Issues that are Closely Connected with Our Lives

There are a great many issues that are closely connected with our lives, including school dropouts, juvenile delinquency, aid for disaster victims, and fitness and health. The Department approaches such problems from a community perspective, rather than from an individual perspective.

Becoming a Generalist Capable of Understanding People

The Department of Community Development aims at cultivating a generalist community composed of workers who influence political policy and approach societal issues from humanitarian, psychological, and sociological perspectives.

Broad Study Programs

Through programs offered by the Department, such as Field Studies and Community Studies, students in the Department are able to engage the particular fields and approaches where community development is applicable.

Curriculum for Social Researchers Capable of Diagnosing Local Regions

The curriculum is structured to allow students to acquire the skills needed to grasp the social reality of a community and the issues it faces, to deepen awareness of those issues, and to link them to policies that will introduce necessary changes. The Department offers subjects that are organized systematically and progressively to enable students to obtain certification as social researchers. Such subjects serve to deepen research planning, implementation, and analysis in a specialized manner.

Systematic Structure of Curriculum

The various specialized subjects are divided into three key groupings of educational and research fields: (1) social welfare policies; (2) The community and the people; and (3) designing a community design. The curriculum is organized in this systematic structure

to enable students to pursue solutions to the particular issues involved in the formation and implementation of effective policy for community-building.

Department of Social Work

Understanding Social Work as a Field of Comprehensive Studies

In the Department of Social Work, students are provided with a comprehensive program of welfare services to enable them to become social workers capable of dealing with people needing assistance with welfare, mental health, and medical care. The Department aims to instill in its students a deep understanding of basic human needs.

Serious Response to Expectations of Welfare Services

The Department develops students into specialists in social work. In particular, they become providers of welfare services responsive to the types of support and assistance different individuals require.

A Specialized Profession to Draw Out and Develop Potential

The Department aims to help students understand the connection between social work and mental and physical health, as well as the welfare system, that provides welfare support and assistance. They also learn the theoretical and practical skills needed to use the welfare system to draw out and develop people's potential.

Ability to Make Proposals Based on Practical Experience

The Department offers a progressive program of studies that requires practical training in the field. First year students take introductory seminars; second year students continue with classes such as Social Work Workshop, Methods of Social Work Assistance Seminar, and Methods of Mental Health Welfare Assistance Seminar; third year students take Practical Training in Social Work in the Field. They engage in internships in their third and fourth years; and carry out Graduation Research in their fourth year.

Support for Certification as a Social Worker

The many various specialized subjects are divided into three key groupings of educational and research fields: (1) Social Welfare System; (2) Mental and Physical Health and their Relation with Welfare Services, and (3) Social Work. The Department provides ample support for students' efforts to obtain certification in such areas as social workers, psychiatric social workers.

Department of Sport and Wellness

Two Domains of Health and Exercise and Sports Performance

The Department of Sport and Wellness is divided into the domains of Health and Exercise and Sports Performance. These domains seek to investigate specialized challenges concerning, for example, physical exertion, prescriptions, assistance, and the formation of community support systems that promote exercise, sports, and wellness.

A Liberal Arts Education Cultivating a Mind for Sports and Well-being

The Department instills in students a broad-ranging education that cultivates a deep understanding of human existence as a backdrop for a focus on sports and well-being. This is achieved through mutual collaboration between the Department's unique special education courses and Rikkyo University's General Curriculum.

Opportunities for Students to Acquire Certification as Health Fitness Instructors and Various Other Positions

The Department offers courses which foster its students' ability to provide diagnoses, prescriptions, and practical support for exercise in the interest of providing an effective and inexpensive plan according to the individual's physical and mental state. Through such courses, students can apply for certification as Health Fitness Instructors, a certification recognized by the Japan Health Promotion Fitness Foundation. Students can also earn certifications as Recreation Instructors, as recognized by the National Recreation Association of Japan, and Elementary Sports Instructors, as recognized by the Japanese Sports Association for the Disabled.