

Supplementary Review Results

Juntendo University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2024)	

Supplementary Review for Juntendo University

Overview

Regarding Juntendo University, as the “Summary of the Emergency Review to Ensure Fairness in Admissions to Medical Programs” published by MEXT on December 14, 2018 uncovered issues in student selection for medical programs, we established an investigative subcommittee inside the University Accreditation Committee in 2019 and examined the validity of results from the 2016 University Accreditation (certified evaluation and accreditation). That examination verified major issues in “enrollment”, “governance”, and “internal quality assurance” and as a result, the determination of the 2016 University Accreditation Results stating that the University conformed to University Standards was overturned and the University was deemed noncompliant. Also, assessment in this Supplementary Review based on the state of improvement for the three standards of “enrollment,” “governance,” and “internal quality assurance” that caused the denial of accreditation was carried out alongside an examination of the state of improvement for the five suggestions from the previous University Accreditation Results.

To address issues in student selection, Juntendo University received an investigatory report from a Third-Party Committee and made plans for improvements, such as revising admission standards via an Admissions Review Committee for administering 2019 admissions. Assessments from the External Review Committee show that all items indicated for each standard “enrollment,” “governance,” and “internal quality assurance” are being improved upon. Additionally, each governing committee has enacted improvements toward the recommendations in the previous University Accreditation Results. From those results, it is clear that many areas are being improved. In particular, even though the results of each improvement, etc. concerning the major issues still require assessment and review, the University is improving the system and has already been determined to meet University Standards.

First, the issues with “enrollment” arose from the University giving preferential treatment to male applicants through admission standards that disadvantaged female applicants without informing applicants of such, using admission standards that disadvantaged applicants based on the number of years they had attempted the entrance exam, and gave preferential status to younger, first-time applicants. Based on recommendations from the Third-Party Committee, the University held a meeting of the Faculty of Medicine Admissions Review Committee to validate the fairness and

appropriateness of student selection, abolished the old admission standards, examined and formulated new admission standards, and then discussed and determined new admission standards in the Admission Committee with the Medical Faculty Chair as Committee Chair. Using these new standards, the University abolished discrimination based on applicant traits and became compliant with MEXT's "Key Points in University Student Selection" and the "Rules on Medical College Admission Systems" published by the Association of Japan Medical Colleges (November 16, 2018). Admission criteria based on the new regulations for Department of Medicine Admissions after 2019 were discussed in the Selection Committee. The Faculty Council then discussed and approved admission criteria based on those standards and presented them to the President for approval, which was granted. Improvements to create adequate assessments in interviews for the Faculty of Medicine were also made, such as adding female faculty as interviewers and deleting items in the "Materials for Conducting Medical Department Interviews" that were flagged as inappropriate by the Association, with enrollment now being conducted in a fair and appropriate manner. Moving forward, we hope that the University will continuously review initiatives to ensure fair admissions more objectively, such as disclosing admissions results to applicants, etc.

For the second item, "governance," the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine explained the content of the Faculty of Medicine's admission standards in the First Round Selection Committee, the Second Round Selection Committee, and the Faculty Council, but none of the committee attendees expressed concerns about the use of admission standards that discriminated based on sex or the number of years an applicant had taken the entrance exam. As such, it was assumed that the appropriateness of the admissions standards had been verified, so an issue arose in that the University had not verified the fairness and appropriateness of the admission standards themselves and the method for student selection in the Faculty of Medicine. To this point, the Student Selection Committee for the admission methods of each undergraduate and graduate division confirmed that fair and appropriate admissions that do not consider an applicant's traits have been conducted since 2019. Also, the Faculty of Medicine's Admissions Review Committee and the Admissions Committees of other undergraduate and graduate divisions are investigating the fairness and appropriateness of the entire admissions processes from recruitment through admission and publication of acceptees, starting with the selection method of the entrance exam and the processes used in admissions. The "Student Selection Verification Procedure at Juntendo University" was established in October 2020, an Admissions Verification Committee was formed in each undergraduate and graduate division as a standing committee (the name was changed in the Faculty of

Medicine), and a system was created to continuously examine appropriateness in enrollment. In addition to these actions, the school corporation plans to have the Board of Trustees strengthen governance for student selection by requesting that student selection be included in audited reviews. However, while discussions were held for Medical Department faculty before exams in order to conduct fair and appropriate interviews, no faculty member raised concerns about discrimination based on traits and awareness of fair and appropriate student selection was not adequately recognized. So, it is hoped that recognition of fair and appropriate student selection will be enhanced through Faculty Development (FD) and Staff Development (SD).

For the third point, “internal quality assurance,” although the University stated that it implemented checks, reviews, reforms, and improvements based on the “Regulations for Juntendo’s Checks and Reviews,” the reality differs from that listed in the “Checks and Review Report” and the University wasn’t organized in a way that allowed them to check, review, reform, and improve their activities. To address these issues, the University established the Internal Quality Assurance Committee in 2020 as an organization responsible for internal quality assurance based on the newly instituted “Internal Quality Assurance Regulations at Juntendo University” and maintained a Check and Review Operations Committee inside this committee to carry out checks and reviews throughout the University. In this internal quality assurance system, checks and reviews conducted at the division level (undergraduate and graduate divisions) are discussed in the Internal Quality Assurance Committee and the Check and Review Operations Committee and then reported to the President. The President receives these reports, instructs the relevant division (undergraduate and graduate divisions) of the areas in need of improvement, and the division then formulates an improvement plan and instigates said improvements. The Internal Quality Assurance Committee examines the results of checks and reviews of enrollment for each undergraduate and graduate division from a University-wide perspective, creates systems to incorporate continuous improvement as a University and not just as the Faculty of Medicine, and is reviewing 2019 and 2020 admissions. The University also instituted the “Juntendo University External Review Committee Regulations,” created the External Review Committee using outside experts, and established a system to review both objectivity and fairness in checks and reviews and the effectiveness of internal quality assurance. Moving forward, we expect the internal quality assurance system, including the External Review Committee, to function effectively and conduct checks and reviews to contribute to improvements.

The above major issues that caused the denial of accreditation have already been improved upon, but in the future the University must conduct appropriate checks and

reviews to gauge whether the revised systems and structures are effective and then link those efforts to additional improvements.

Finally, while adequate improvements have already been made regarding the five suggestions for improvement indicated in the previous University Accreditation, the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the Department of Medicine has been high in the last five years, so continuous reviews of student quotas should be made.

Suggestions for Improvement

Enrollment

- The average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the Department of Medicine in the last five years has been high at 1.01 and this should be improved.