

Supplementary Review Results

Fukuoka University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukuoka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2023)	

Supplementary Review for Fukuoka University

Overview

Regarding Fukuoka 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 AY 2019 and examined the validity of results from the AY 2015 University Accreditation (certified evaluation and accreditation). This consequently verified major issues in “Student Enrollment”, “Management”, and “Internal Quality Assurance” and as a result, the determination of the AY 2015 University Accreditation Results stating that the University conformed to University Standards was overturned and the University was deemed noncompliant.

In response to these problems with student selection, the “Faculty of Medicine School of Medicine Entrance Examination Improvement Committee” was established, and after verifying all the facts, it was immediately decided at the “Project Management Conference” to abolish the difference in assessment according to attributes. In addition, the “Fukuoka University School of Medicine Entrance Examination System Investigation Committee” that includes third parties has been established, and the committee analyzes the causes of issues and proposes measures to prevent their recurrence. Furthermore, the recommendations in the investigation results of the Association were confirmed in the “Check and Review Promotion Council”, “Project Management Conference,” and “University Council”, and a system was established for improvement under the leadership of the President. That is, the “Special Committee for Reviewing the Admissions Inspection System” chaired by the Vice President in charge of education, was established under the “Project Management Conference” to ensure the appropriateness of admissions selection for the 2020 entrance examination. In addition to verification, the Faculty of Medicine also has an “Internal Quality Assurance System Construction Review Committee” established under the “Check and Review Promotion Council” as well as a “Medical Department Entrance Examination Review Committee” to inspect future medical department entrance examinations and has worked toward improvements centered on these various organizations. As a result, the serious problems in “enrollment” have improved, and the efforts to realize improvements in “Management”, and “Internal Quality Assurance” were confirmed, so it is deemed that University Standards are

conformed to.

Firstly, on the matter of “Student Enrollment,” points were added according to the number of years after graduating from high school in the secondary selection of general entrance examinations (scheduled by system) and evaluation of the school records of the A method of entrance examination for recommended candidates, without clearly indicating this to the examinees. Specifically, in the evaluation of school records for the general entrance examination and the A method of entrance examination for recommended candidates, the evaluation is based on the average rating of 6 grades described in the school records. A score of 0 to 20 points (0 to 10 points in the entrance examination for recommended candidates) was distributed by combining the classifications “actively enrolled,” “students who have spent 1 year since high school trying to enroll” and “students who have spent 2 or more years since high school trying to enroll,” depending on the number of years since graduating from high school, and the points were mechanically scored according to this assessment standard. It should be noted that these methods of treating students were implemented without being clearly stated to the examinees, so the selection of new enrollees was inappropriate and lacked fairness. With regard to this, from the AY 2019 entrance examination, the allocation of points to the evaluation of the school records has been abolished in the entrance exam that became a problem. The handling of school records has also been changed so that the interviewer can confirm the character of the examinee and use it as a reference when evaluating their qualifications as a doctor in the interview. In addition, the “Medical Department Entrance Examination Review Committee” has been set up in the School of Medicine to review the manuals and evaluation formats related to interviews, essays, and assessments of school records. In addition, a University-wide organization, the “Special Committee for Reviewing the Admissions Inspection System,” was organized to carry out verification work regarding the selection of new students for the entire University as well as for the appropriateness of investigation results according to the “Medical Department Entrance Examination Review Committee.” In the AY 2020 entrance examination, the “Special Committee for Reviewing the Admissions Inspection System” verified the appropriateness of admissions selection for all faculties and graduate/undergraduate schools, and confirmed there was no improper management. Although it has been decided that this Committee will be established to verify the appropriateness of the changes in the entrance examination system from AY 2021 onward, it will be set up simply for the time being, so the University should ideally construct a mechanism to constantly verify the appropriateness of admissions selection.

Although “Management” had been managed in accordance with the regulations,

it was not possible to recognize that the system of adding points according to the number of years after graduating from high school was inappropriate. In addition, in response to the indication that governance was not functioning, the entrance examination verification system was reviewed so that, in particular, the members of the “Special Committee for Reviewing the Admissions Inspection System” would not be biased toward a specific field. A system was thus devised so that two committee members from both the humanities and sciences are selected. In addition, as a measure to prevent inadequacies in University management, the scope of deliberation is being clarified in the “Project Management Conference” and “University Council,” which are bodies related to University-wide decision-making. In the future, full-time auditors will be assigned to strengthen auditor functions, and the “Special Committee for Governance Strengthening / Improvement Review” will be established as an advisory body to the “Project Management Conference.” In order to proceed with reviewing the decision-making process, efforts should continue to be made with strengthening the governance of the University.

Regarding “Internal Quality Assurance,” this is something that has been worked toward since AY 2014 under four council bodies in the form of the “Check and Review Promotion Council,” the Check and Review Committee”, the “Departmental Check and Review Task Force”, and the “Department-specific Check and Review Implementation Committee”. However, in the checks and reviews pertaining to faculties and departments, the actual situation of inappropriate selection of enrollees in the School of Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine could not be recognized as an issue. At the “Internal Quality Assurance System Construction Review Committee” established under the “Check and Review Promotion Council” in AY 2017, Fukuoka University is considering how their internal quality assurance system should work through on-site surveys at other universities. The results are summarized in the report “Toward the construction of an internal quality assurance system (final report)” in AY 2019, and based on this, there is an investigation into reconstructing the internal quality assurance system, while efforts are being made to improve it. Specifically, in AY 2020, the checks and reviews that had been carried out as a corporation until now will be implemented for each established school, and Fukuoka University has positioned the “Check and Review Promotion Council” as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance. At the same time, the activities of the University are divided into four areas: “education, student support, and enrollment,” “research,” “social cooperation and social contribution,” and “operations and finance.” Four council bodies, the “Education Promotion Council”, the “Research Promotion Main Council”, the “Regional Cooperation Promotion Council”,

and the “Project Management Conference” check and review each area based on the evaluations made by each division, and in the process of reporting these results to the “Check and Review Promotion Council,” the University will invariably discover the strengths and issues of the efforts in each area. In the future, the “Check and Review Promotion Council” will establish a "Executive Committee," led by the university's executive board, which will be positioned as an organization that evaluates self-study reports from a comprehensive point of view. Similarly, the “Check and Review Promotion Council” will also have an “Evaluation Team” whose primary members are teaching staff selected from each faculty, etc. They are considering ensuring the objectivity of checks and reviews results by conducting checks and reviews results of each department from the perspective of University colleagues, and steady implementation of these is desired.

As described above, an internal quality assurance system and verification system for entrance examinations continue to be developed, and future efforts have been specifically decided upon. Therefore, efforts will continue to be made toward improvements under the newly constructed internal quality assurance system in the hope that it will lead to the further development of the University.