

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Iwate Medical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Iwate, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2013	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Iwate Medical University

Notable Strengths

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy at Iwate Medical University (hereafter, the University) have praised instructors who have been highly rated in the evaluations by the students as “Best Teacher” and have made their lectures open to the public. These attempts are received favorably by the students, as they contribute to the improvement of teaching methods.

Student support

- It is commendable that the University supported students affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake by offering tuition reduction based on the degree of damage, and that it continues to support students with financial difficulties today.

Social cooperation and contribution

- It is commendable that the University as a whole has been actively involved in reconstruction support activities. For example, based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the University has offered long-term medical support to those who were affected in order to suggest a model for medical support during a large-scale disaster. The University established the “Center for Research and Training on Community Health Services During Disaster” that offers courses in “Disaster Medicine” and “Disaster and Community Psychiatry” in addition to its “Mental Care Center.” This education center effort intends to develop a model for medical systems for disaster response and to foster human resources and professionals for disaster occasions through education. In addition, willing student volunteers edited the Guide Book for Disaster Prevention and widely distributed it to universities, hospitals, and local governments all over Japan.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- The School of Pharmacy conducts a comprehensive exam that is not listed in the curriculum as a requirement for graduation. The exam results are used as the final criteria for graduation. That is, the actual criteria for graduation do not match what is written in the university regulations. This situation should be improved.
- In the Graduate School of Dental Sciences, the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations and the criteria for early completion of the program have not been clarified. The criteria should be clarified to the students in advance.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.04 in the School of Medicine and low at 0.35 in the Master’s program in the Graduate School of Medical Science. This situation should be improved.

Internal quality assurance

- The internal quality assurance systems are not working sufficiently. Although various self-study and evaluation efforts have taken place through the Self-Evaluation Committee, different actors and organizations are responsible for the self-study and evaluation efforts of the different units. The results are not reported to the Self-Evaluation Committee. The University should set up a clear policy for the internal quality assurance system and arrange the systems of evaluation in a way such that the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle works properly.

Area of Serious Concern*Faculty and faculty organization*

- The School of Dentistry is short of one full-time professor in order to satisfy the Standards for the Establishment of Universities. This situation must be corrected.

Enrollment

- In the School of Dentistry, the average of the ratios of last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap has been low at 0.78. This situation must be corrected.