

Supplementary Review Results

Kanazawa Medical University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Ishikawa, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2022)	

Supplementary Review for Kanazawa Medical University

Overview

Regarding Kanazawa Medical University, as the “Summary of the Emergency Review to Ensure Fairness in Admissions to Medical Programs” published by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (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 2014 University Accreditation (certified evaluation and accreditation). That examination verified major issues in “Student Enrollment,” “Management,” and “Internal Quality Assurance” and as a result, the determination of the 2014 University Accreditation Results stating that the University conformed to University Standards was overturned and the University was deemed noncompliant.

Kanazawa Medical University promptly began exploring improvement plans, etc. after MEXT’s findings and conducted 2019 admissions. They also established a Third-Party Committee in February 2019 commensurate with Japan Federation of Bar Associations guidelines based on MEXT’s findings and began investigations and reviews using three outside investigators. The Third-Party Committee provided their report in May of that year and the University published it on their homepage. While carrying out the above, the University established a School of Medicine Admissions System Investigation Committee with the Vice President of Admissions as Chair, reviewed their criteria for successful applicants and publishing successful waitlist applicants, created thirteen points of improvement such as establishing a post-admissions review system, and implemented these improvements, etc. as it conducted 2020 admissions. By means of these various initial improvements, the Association acknowledged the three issues of “Student Enrollment”, “Management”, and “Internal Quality Assurance” which caused the change in accreditation as major issues and the University is working to address them. After conducting an evaluation in this Supplementary Review that aligned with the 2014 University Standards, we comprehensively assessed the state of improvements for those three points and determined that University Standards are being satisfied.

First, with “Student Enrollment,” the Association’s investigation found that, in response to the low number of graduates choosing to base themselves in the Hokuriku

region, etc., obvious score manipulation occurred that favored candidates from certain regions or those who were the children of alumni in the Department of Medicine's Special Recommendation Entrance Exam (AO exam) and the University Transfer Exam and that applicants were not informed of such. The report also found that the President and the Exam Committee Chair excluded older applicants and those with poor attendance records when selecting students for the general admissions waitlist. In response to these issues, prior to changes in accreditation based on the Association report, the Medical Faculty Council found that no test score manipulation based on applicant traits in the School of Medicine's Special Recommendation Entrance Exam (AO exam) and the University Transfer Exam had taken place since 2019 and that applicants accepted from the general admissions waitlist were ranked based on a total score of written exams, interviews, essays, and reports. The University also created a committee after enacting the "School of Medicine Admissions System Investigation Committee Regulations" and implemented a system in 2020 to continuously review the admissions system. Through these actions, the University intends to address the issues indicated by the Association. The University also established a system aimed at securing physicians for the University in 2020 admissions.

For "Management", the report found that the President and the Exam Committee Chair carried out inappropriate student selection that violated regulations when adequate consensus had not been reached within the University and that no system existed to allow for checks by people other than the President or the Exam Committee Chair. To address this problem, the University added reviews of acceptance methods, etc. and reorganized the admissions system in September 2019 from one where the former School of Medicine Admissions Administration Committee oversaw the entire process to one split between three committees, the Admissions System Investigation Committee, the Admissions Administration Committee, and the Admissions Selection Committee. The system was also improved so that the committees can work cooperatively and provide checks and balances. In May 2020, two auditors selected in accordance with the Kanazawa Medical University Donation Act began an audit of 2020 admissions. In addition to those actions, because the University recognizes the need to clarify (answer questions about) the duties and authority of the President, Vice President, Faculty Chairs, and Graduate School Directors in regulations such as the school rules, etc. and articulate the vague responsibilities and authority of the President's Assistant, we hope that they will implement improvements in those areas and enhance University administration.

For "Internal Quality Assurance," the University should take no measures that would make checks and reviews simple bureaucratic acts and must examine the efficacy

of the internal quality assurance system. To address this issue, in May 2020, the University established the Kanazawa Medical University Evaluation and Management Committee based on the “Regulations for Checks and Reviews,” formed the Admissions Evaluation Subcommittee as a departmental review committee, and conducted checks and reviews of 2020 admissions. Since this internal quality assurance system is expected to be stipulated in the “Student Selection Regulations” by the end of April 2021, it is hoped that the internal quality assurance system will work under the new system as it is introduced. Also, systems and mechanisms should be developed that enable objective verification of the efficacy of internal quality assurance.

In this way, there are general signs of improvement for the major issues of “Student Enrollment”, “Management”, and “Internal Quality Assurance” involving student selection that caused the change in accreditation.

Moving forward, we expect to see the University continue to progress by strengthening initiatives geared towards internal quality assurance and steadily implementing initiatives toward each improvement.