

Judgement Cancellation to the University Accreditation Results for St. Marianna University School of Medicine in Academic year 2016

In order to develop in a more individual manner, universities in Japan are expected to clarify their policies on admission, curriculum, and degree awarding, and to systematically evolve university education in accordance with these policies to make them effective. In particular, university entrance examinations, which are the point of contact between society and universities, should be conducted in a manner that ensures fairness. Universities are also expected to fulfill their accountability to society by periodically examining whether their entrance examinations are administered properly in accordance with their admission policies and by publicizing the results. Last year, however, some universities were found to have problems with the fairness of their medical faculty entrance examinations. As a result, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) conducted a nationwide survey of medical faculties and departments, and reported that an improper selection of applicants was conducted in your university.

In order to fulfill its responsibilities as an accreditation organization aimed at improving university quality and assuring the quality to society, the Japan University Accreditation Association has decided to once again consider the validity of the University Accreditation results for your university by conducting a review covering the three relevant University Standards out of ten, namely, “Standard 5: Student Enrollment,” “Standard 9: Management,” and “Standard 10: Internal Quality Assurance.”

A research subcommittee, established for this examination under the University Accreditation Committee, reviewed the report on the circumstances of this problem and various other materials submitted by your university, and held hearings with the relevant parties in your university last July.

The review revealed that your university is not organized to the extent that it is capable of checking on and assessing its own activities to implement improvement or reform because (1) with regard to “Student Enrollment,” it is not confirmed that fair and proper student enrollment is conducted in accordance with the admission policies; (2) with regard to “Management,” the governance related to student enrollment does not function sufficiently for it to be confirmed that appropriate administration is conducted; and (3) with regard to “internal quality assurance,” self-check and self-evaluation are not implemented properly.

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Japan University Accreditation Association (held on September 27, 2019) judged that these conditions fall short of the University Standards, and accordingly, cancelled your previous accreditation result and changed it from “accredited” to “not accredited.”

Your university has already announced that it will make efforts to improve the selection system. Based on the results of this examination, however, it is strongly hoped that student enrollment will be reconsidered and fair and selection of applicants will be conducted, and that consideration will be given to how governance and internal quality assurance should be implemented.