

## Re-review Results

### Iryo Sosei University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Fukushima, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2019 – March.31.2026)	

## **Re-review Results for Iryo Sosei University**

### **Overview**

As the results of the University Accreditation by the Association in 2018 for Iryo Sosei University (the name at the time of University Accreditation was Iwaki Meisei University) revealed serious problems in both “student enrollment” and “teaching staff and faculty,” corrective recommendations were issued, and the decision of whether or not it conformed to the university standards for accreditation was suspended in consideration of the probability of improvement. To this, one corrective recommendation and six improvement issues were also added. The progress report concerning the corrective recommendations other than the critical issues and the status of issues requiring improvement are scheduled to be submitted in AY 2022. In this re-review, the status of improvement in “student enrollment” and “teaching staff and faculty,” which factored in the previous suspension of accreditation decision, were assessed.

From 2019 to 2020, Iryo Sosei University added two faculties. The University was in the midst of major changes through organizational restructuring such as suspension of application for one faculty and name change of the University as it transitioned into a medical University. However, the University has steadily worked on making improvements and progress under the guidance of the chairman of the University-wide Board of Education (President), who is responsible for checks and reviews and general education of the whole University. As a result, although the two corrective recommendations pointed out as serious problems at the time of University Accreditation were not fully addressed, the improvements were comprehensively judged and determined to be conforming to the University standards, including the period in which the decision of accreditation was suspended in the previous University Accreditation.

First, regarding “student enrollment,” it was pointed out as a problem that for the last five years, the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap was low for the entire undergraduate program, and the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap was also low for the entire undergraduate program as well as the Department of Pharmacy. In response to this fact, faculties are being reformed: applications were suspended in AY 2019 for the Faculty of Liberal Arts with an especially low fulfillment rate of admission, and the Faculty of Health Sciences was newly established in 2019, and the Faculty of Psychology was established in 2020, etc. As a result, the average ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap in the last five years for the

whole undergraduate program and the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap has increased year by year from AY 2019 to AY 2020, but it remains at a low level. In addition, the Department of Pharmacy is striving to secure enrollment using a variety of media and opportunities to enhance educational effects through original initiatives. These initiatives include “Ignite Education,” in which active learning takes place, and “Cram School,” in which remedial education is offered by external teachers, and utilize methods such as TBL (Team Based Learning) and PBL (Problem Based Learning). In spite of this, the enrollment numbers are on the decline. For this same faculty, the ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap was higher for AY 2019 in comparison at the time of university accreditation, but the ratio was lower for AY 2020. As for the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap for the past five years (which was not the subject of the assessment at the time of university accreditation), the ratio declined to a low level in AY 2020. Continued improvements to ensure thorough quota management are required. In addition, the ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment caps in the new faculties are low in the Department of Occupational Therapy in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Department of Clinical Psychology in the Faculty of Psychology. It is necessary to analyze the future trends and respond to them. The Faculty of Global Nursing (tentative name) is scheduled to be established in 2021. Although student enrollment for the entire undergraduate program is expected to improve, the University as a whole must continue to tackle quota management issues.

Regarding the “teaching staff and faculty,” it was pointed out that in the Master’s Course and Doctor’s Course of Japanese Literature of the Graduate School of Humanities, there was a shortage of the number of assistant professors required by the Standards for Establishment of Graduate Schools, to supervise research. It was also indicated that there was a shortage in the number of research supervisors required by the same standards in the Master Course of English and American Literature. However, with the subsequent transition to a medical University, all departments and courses that were pointed out in the previous accreditation stopped accepting applications in 2020, and recruitment of faculty became unnecessary. In addition to formulating the next medium-term business plan, a personnel plan is due to be created to secure and develop faculty members in a stable manner. It is hoped that this will be steadily implemented and the appropriateness of the faculty organization will be continuously ensured.

Iryo Sosei University has responded to the recommendations of the Association as mentioned above while proceeding with the major University reforms. In order to establish an internal quality assurance system that plays a role in supporting such reforms,

improvements, and progress, “Regulations for Checks and Reviews” were established, and it was decided that self-inspections and evaluations will be conducted annually. In fact, in AY 2019, each faculty selected items from the “University Standards” and conducted their own checks and reviews, and the results were published on the website. This procedure was re-implemented in 2020. However, allocation of responsibilities for integration and promotion of internal quality assurance as a whole University is not sufficient yet. In recent years, it seems the view that successive reforms in a short period of time are realized by preceding management decisions is greater than the view that they are the results of internal quality assurance. Internal quality assurance is not the subject of this assessment, but we expect further enhancement of the internal quality assurance system and efforts to fully demonstrate the mechanisms, to improve the quality of education, and to further achieve the University's new mission and purpose.

## **Recommendation**

### *Student Enrollment*

- In AY 2020, the average ratio of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years for the entire undergraduate program was 0.79. In the Department of Pharmacy, (which was not subject to the recommendation at the time of university accreditation), it was as low as 0.79. The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap for the entire undergraduate program is 0.81, in the Department of Pharmacy in the Faculty of Pharmacy, it is as low as 0.71. Improvements to ensure thorough quota management for the faculty are needed.