



# Self-Study Preparation Visit to



**PennState**

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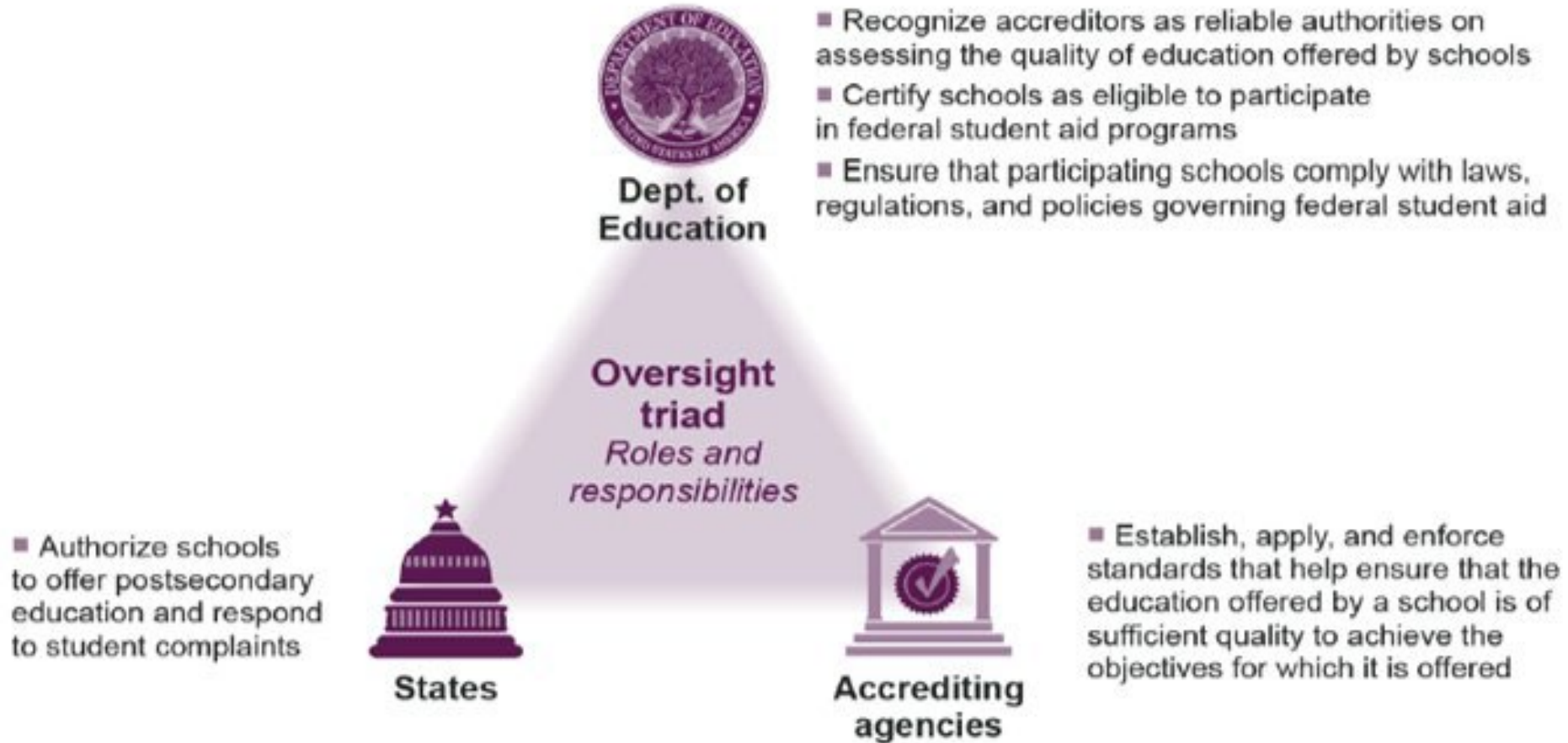
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# Why Accreditation?

- Accreditation is a “review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. In the United States, accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education.” Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- Accreditation is intended to support these goals:
  - strengthen and sustain higher education,
  - making it worthy of public confidence, and
  - minimizing the scope of external control.
- Accreditation demonstrates an institution’s commitment to continuous self-assessment.



# The Regulatory Triad



Source: GAO analysis of relevant federal laws and regulations. | GAO-18-5



# What is MSCHE?

# Mission, Vision, Values

## Mission

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) promotes educational excellence through innovation across diverse institutions.

## Vision

To be a prominent voice and champion in higher education to leverage accreditation for our member institutions and students.

## Values

### Protecting the Future

We ensure that member institutions meet rigorous and comprehensive standards to protect educational quality.

### Guiding for Good

We fuel discovery and progress for our community and society as an independent voice in higher education.

### Setting the Standard

We promote quality through honest reflection, institutional growth, and meaningful change.

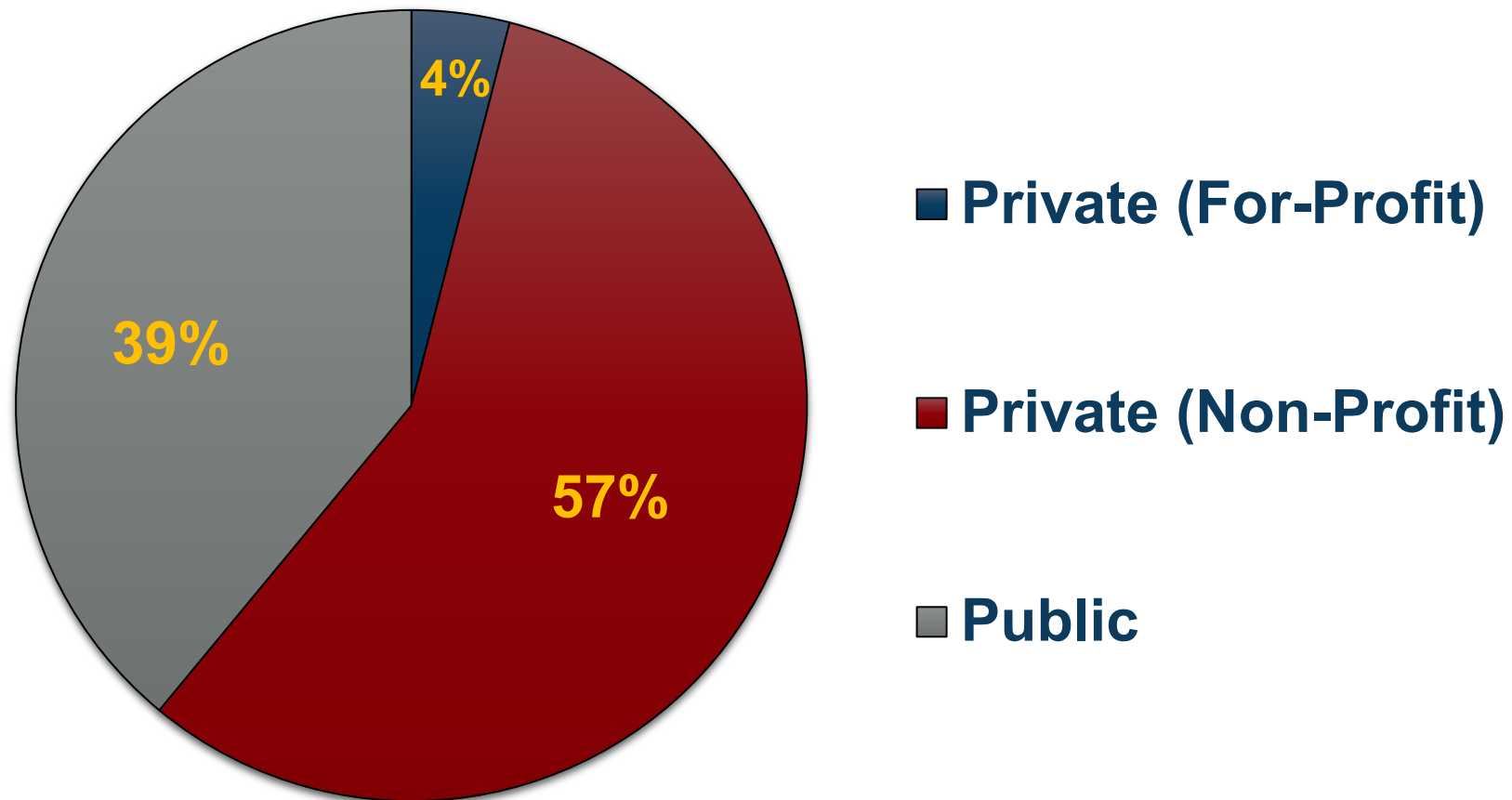
These values guide our external and internal relationships where integrity, respect, and self-improvement promote personal and collective growth, creativity, collaboration, accountability, and fair and equitable treatment.

# Who is the Commission?



# Some Statistics on MSCHE Institutions

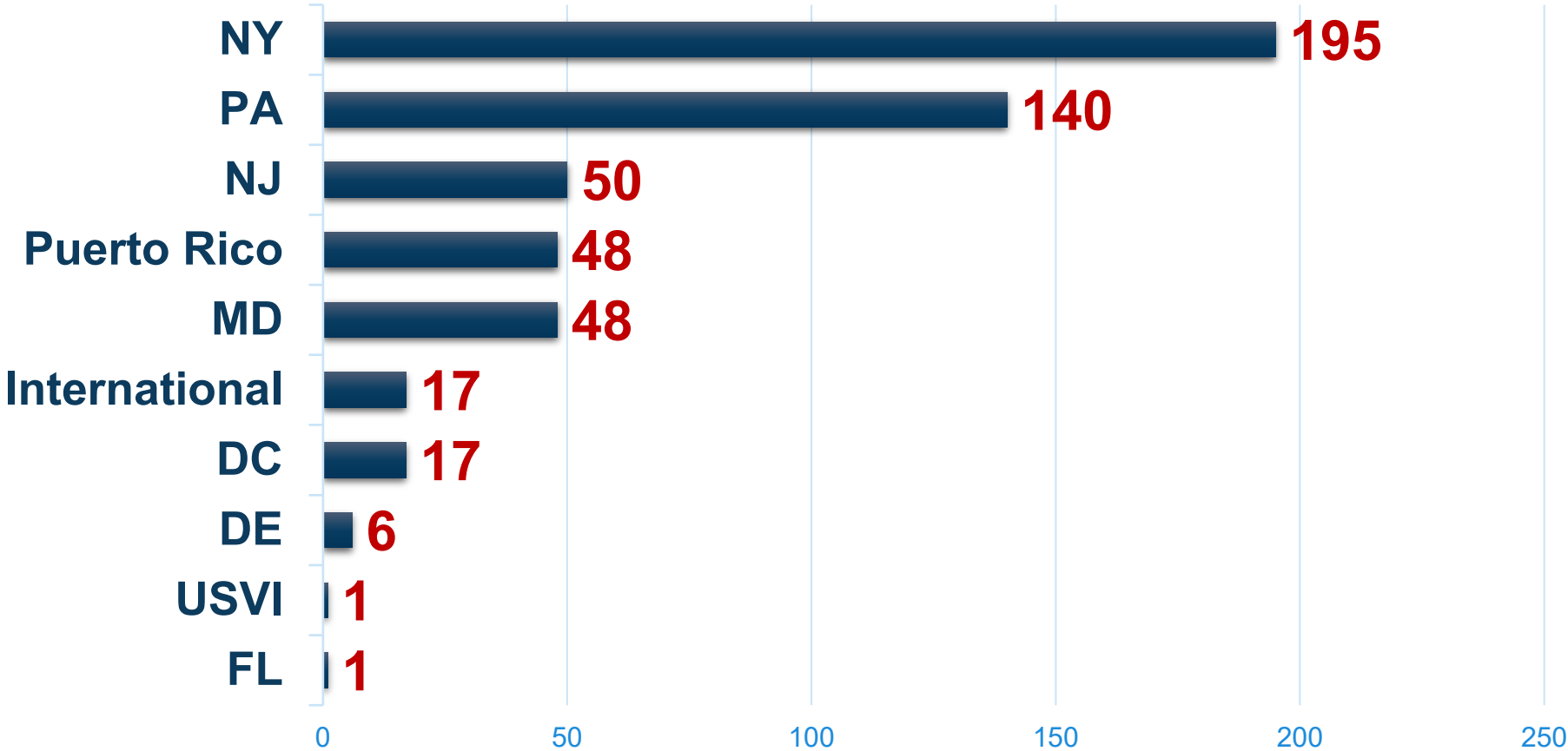
## Institutional Control





# Some Statistics on MSCHE Institutions

## Location

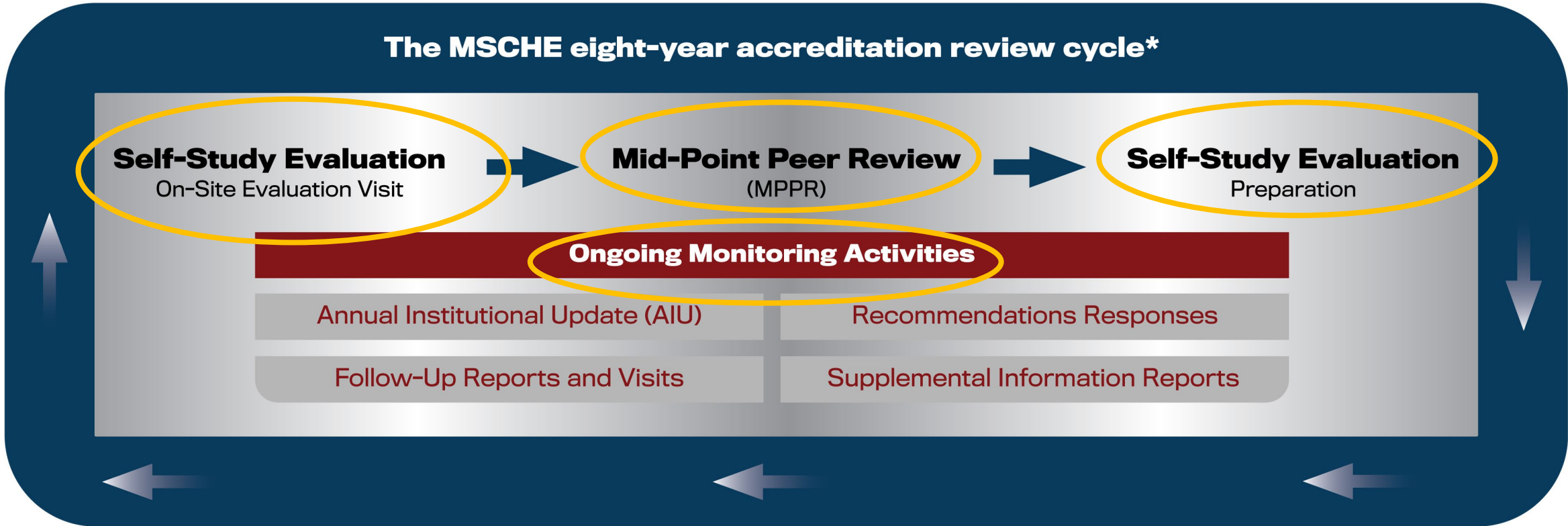




# Accreditation Cycle

# Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring

## For Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation



\*For a full description of the *Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy and Procedures*, visit <https://go.msche.org/Accreditation-Review-Cycle-and-Monitoring>

**In the accreditation process, institutions are expected to comply with...**

**Standards for Accreditation**

**Requirements of Affiliation**

**Federal compliance requirements**

**MSCHE policies and procedures**

# Standards for Accreditation

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I. Mission and Goals

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II. Ethics and Integrity

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III. Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

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IV. Support of the Student Experience

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V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment

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VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

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VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration

# Requirements of Affiliation

1. Authorization to operate

2. Institution is operational, with students actively enrolled in degree programs

3. Has graduated at least one class before accreditation

4. Communicates with MSCHE in English

5. Compliance with government policies, regulations, and requirements

6. Compliance with applicable Commission, interregional, and interinstitutional policies

7. Mission statement and related goals

8. Systematic evaluation of all programs

9. Programs characterized by rigor, coherence, and assessment

10. Integrated institutional planning

11. Resources adequate to support educational purposes/programs and to ensure financial stability

12. Governance structure responsible for quality and integrity and accomplishment of mission

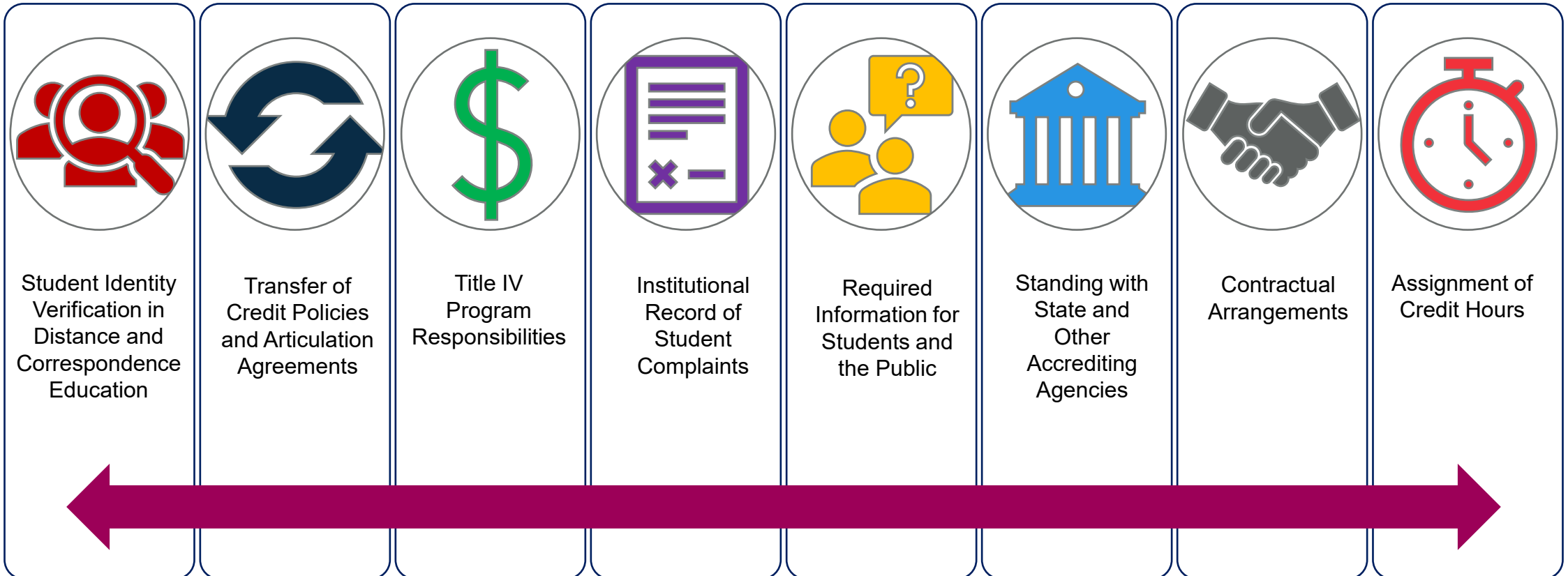
13. Governing body adherence to a conflict of interest policy

14. Governance and accurate institutional information

15. Core of faculty and/or other appropriate professionals

<https://www.msche.org/standards/>

# 8 Areas: Compliance with Federal Regulation



<http://www.msche.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018VerificationofCompliance.pdf>



# What is Self-Study?



# Self-Study Process

## Steering Committee and Working Groups



Engage in a meaningful Self-Study process, focused on mission & related strategic goals and priorities.



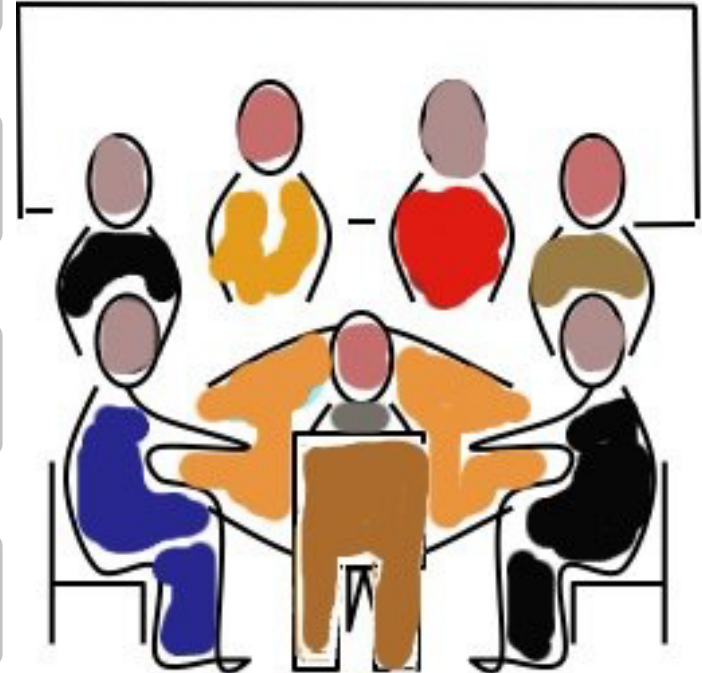
Address the Commission's *Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation*.



Oversee the completion of a Compliance Report.



Process takes 2.5 years.



# Institutional Priorities

Enabling Access to Education

Engaging Our Students

Advancing Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity

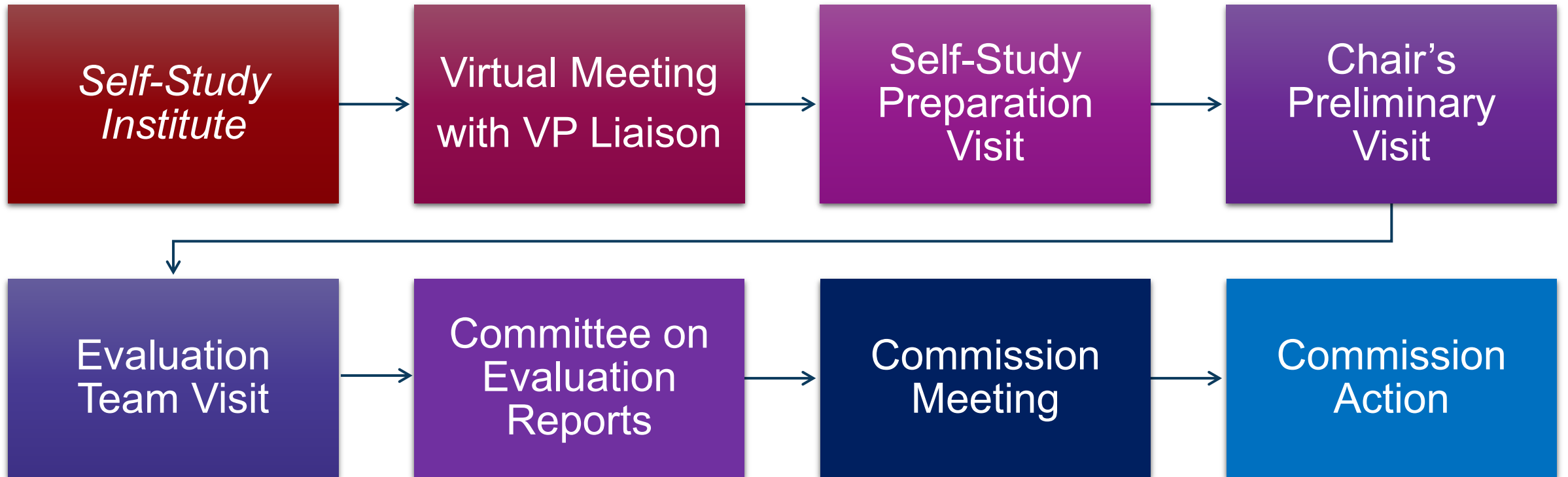
Enhancing Global Engagement

Driving Economic Development

Ensuring a Sustainable Future

# Self-Study Process

## 24-30 months



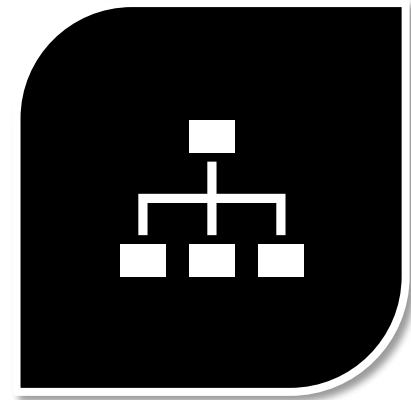
# Multi- Level Analysis



**PEER EVALUATORS**



**COMMITTEE ON  
EVALUATION REPORTS**



**COMMISSION**

# Types of Findings

**Significant  
Accomplishments,  
Significant Progress or  
Exemplary/Innovative  
Practices**

**Collegial Advice**

**Recommendations**

**Requirements**



# Possible Commission Actions

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Reaffirmation with Follow-up

Non-Compliance

- **Warning** / **Probation** / **Show Cause**
- Monitoring Report / Small team visit
- Time limit

# Self-Study Impact “Top Ten”

LINKING STRATEGIC  
PLAN WITH  
BUDGETING AND  
PLANNING

REVISING OR  
DEVELOPING NEW  
STRATEGIC PLAN

INTEGRATING  
ASSESSMENT  
ACROSS UNITS

IMPROVING  
STUDENT  
DIVERSITY AND  
CULTURE OF  
INCLUSION

ENHANCING  
ASSESSMENT OF  
STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT

IMPROVING  
COMMUNICATION  
AMONG  
STAKEHOLDERS

IMPROVING  
ASSESSMENT OF  
STUDENT SERVICES

REWORDING OR  
REDEVELOPING  
INSTITUTIONAL  
MISSION STATEMENT

IMPROVE INTERNAL  
COMMUNICATION

TRAINING IN  
CURRICULUM AND  
ASSESSMENT

# We are all MSCHE



*How can  
you  
participate?*



## Staff

- Service on Steering Committee and/or Working Groups
- Feedback: Open Meetings, Town Halls, Surveys

## Faculty

- Service on Steering Committee and/or Working Groups
- Feedback: Open Meetings, Town Halls, Surveys

## Administration

- Service on Steering Committee and/or Working Groups
- Feedback: Open Meetings, Town Halls, Surveys

## Students

- Service on Steering Committee and/or Working Groups
- Feedback: Open Meetings, Town Halls, Surveys

## Others (Alumni, etc.)

- Service on Steering Committee and/or Working Groups
- Feedback: Open Meetings, Town Halls, Surveys

# Resources at MSCHE

***Vice President Liaison***

***Dr. Terence Peavy***

***[tpeavy@msche.org](mailto:tpeavy@msche.org)***

Your Self-Study Leadership Team  
Other Commission Staff  
Your Team Chair

The MSCHE  
website:  
[www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)

