Self-Study Preparation Visit to PennState

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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

- Recognize accreditors as reliable authorities on assessing the quality of education offered by schools
- Certify schools as eligible to participate in federal student aid programs
- Ensure that participating schools comply with laws, regulations, and policies governing federal student aid

Oversight triad
Roles and responsibilities

- Authorize schools to offer postsecondary education and respond to student complaints
- Establish, apply, and enforce standards that help ensure that the education offered by a school is of sufficient quality to achieve the objectives for which it is offered

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

- Private (For-Profit): 4%
- Private (Non-Profit): 57%
- Public: 39%
Some Statistics on MSCHE Institutions

Location

- NY: 195
- PA: 140
- NJ: 50
- Puerto Rico: 48
- MD: 48
- International: 17
- DC: 17
- DE: 6
- USVI: 1
- FL: 1
Accreditation Cycle
Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring
For Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation

The MSCHE eight-year accreditation review cycle*

Self-Study Evaluation
On-Site Evaluation Visit

Mid-Point Peer Review
(MPPR)

Self-Study Evaluation
Preparation

Ongoing Monitoring Activities

Annual Institutional Update (AIU)

Recommendations Responses

Follow-Up Reports and Visits

Supplemental Information Reports

*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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<th>I. Mission and Goals</th>
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<td>II. Ethics and Integrity</td>
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<td>III. Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience</td>
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<td>IV. Support of the Student Experience</td>
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<td>V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment</td>
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<td>VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement</td>
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<td>VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration</td>
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https://www.msche.org/standards/#requirements
## 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/](https://www.msche.org/standards/)
8 Areas: Compliance with Federal Regulation

- Student Identity Verification in Distance and Correspondence Education
- Transfer of Credit Policies and Articulation Agreements
- Title IV Program Responsibilities
- Institutional Record of Student Complaints
- Required Information for Students and the Public
- Standing with State and Other Accrediting Agencies
- Contractual Arrangements
- Assignment of Credit Hours

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

1. Self-Study Institute
2. Virtual Meeting with VP Liaison
3. Self-Study Preparation Visit
4. Chair’s Preliminary Visit
5. Evaluation Team Visit
6. Committee on Evaluation Reports
7. Commission Meeting
8. Commission Action
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”

1. Linking Strategic Plan with Budgeting and Planning
2. Revising or Developing New Strategic Plan
3. Integrating Assessment Across Units
4. Improving Student Diversity and Culture of Inclusion
5. Enhancing Assessment of Student Achievement
6. Improving Communication Among Stakeholders
7. Improving Assessment of Student Services
8. Rewording or Redeveloping Institutional Mission Statement
9. Improve Internal Communication
10. Training in Curriculum and Assessment
We are all MSCHE

How can you participate?
- 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*

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

The MSCHE website:
www.msche.org