



# Self-Study Preparation Open Meeting



**Dr. Sean A. McKitrick, Vice President, Institutional Field Relations**

March 28, 2023

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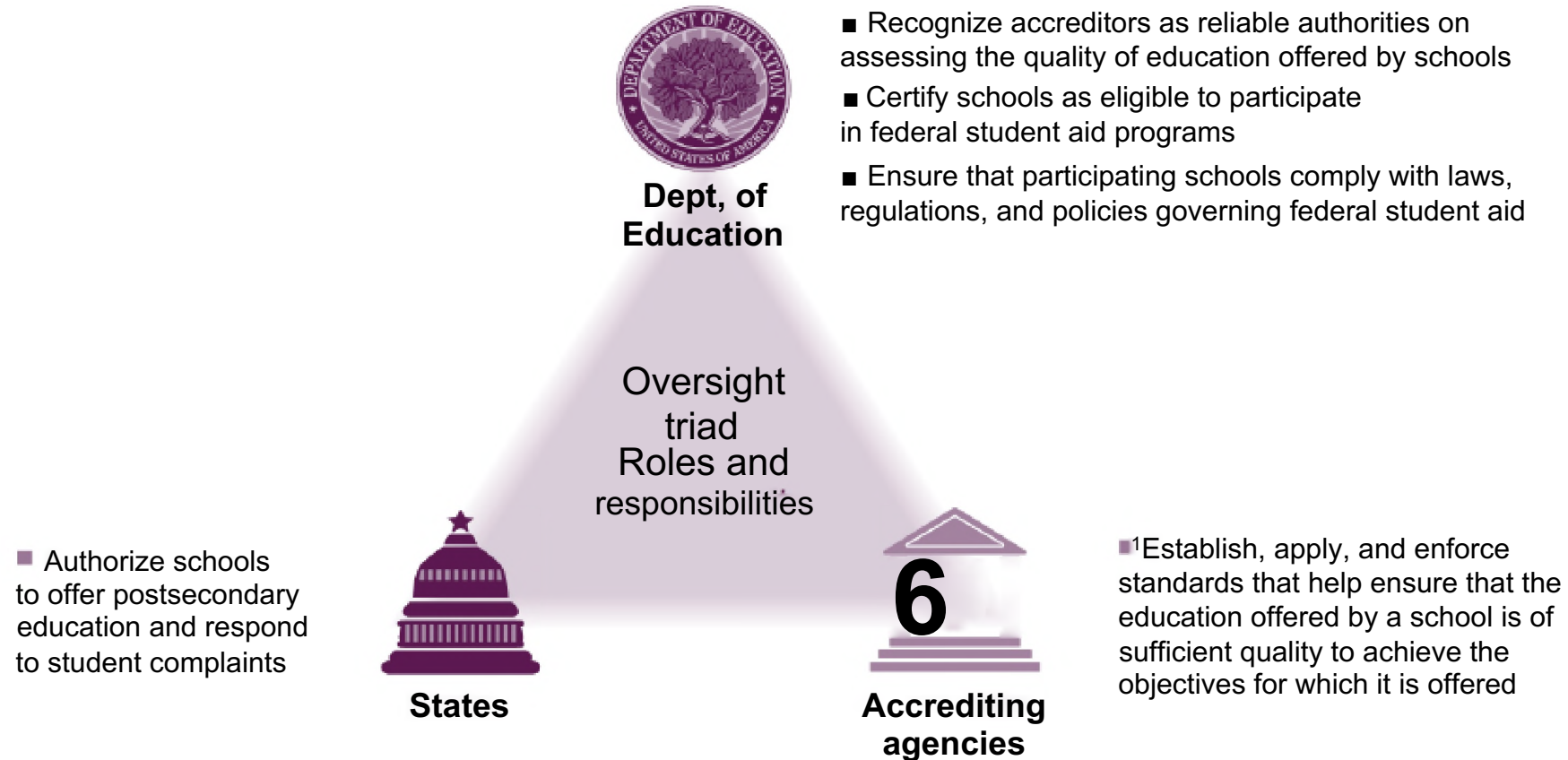
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# Why Accreditation?

- The Middle States Commission on Higher Education seeks to ensure that institutions are reevaluated and monitored on a regular and consistent basis.
- In accordance with federal regulation, the Commission implements a cycle for accreditation review that reevaluates and monitors institutions to ensure compliance with standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and applicable federal regulatory requirements.
- The Commission assigns institutions to an accreditation review cycle which dictates the timeline and a regular and consistent schedule of review.
- 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.



# #1: It Addresses the Expectations of the Regulatory Triad



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

**#2:  
It Improves  
Performance  
in Areas  
Important to  
an Institution**

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Space and Facilities

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Information Technology

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DEI

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Student Achievement

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Mentoring or Tutoring

---

Experiential Learning

---

Admissions and Recruitment

---

Advising

---

Policies

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Online

**#3:**  
**It Fosters  
Innovation**

Competency-Based Education  
Online Delivery  
“Second Chance Pell”  
Identifies Areas of Improvement

# #4: Member Institutions Engage Within a Learning Community

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TRAINING



SHARING  
APPROACHES



PEER REVIEW  
AND ADVICE



# 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

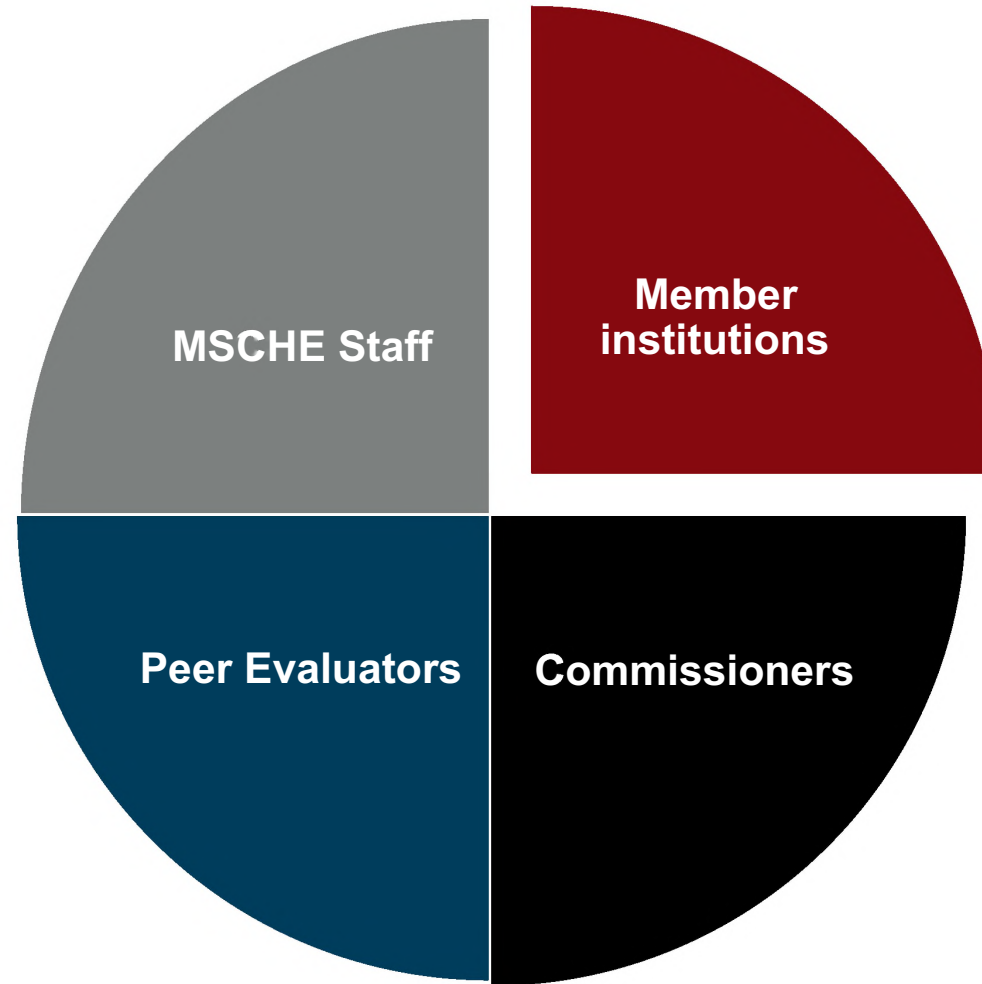
We fuel discovery and progress for our community and society as an independent voice in higher education.

### 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?



# The Commissioners

**At least 27 Members**

Presidents

Senior Administrators

Faculty

Public Representatives

***Dedicated to Quality Assurance and Continuous  
Improvement***

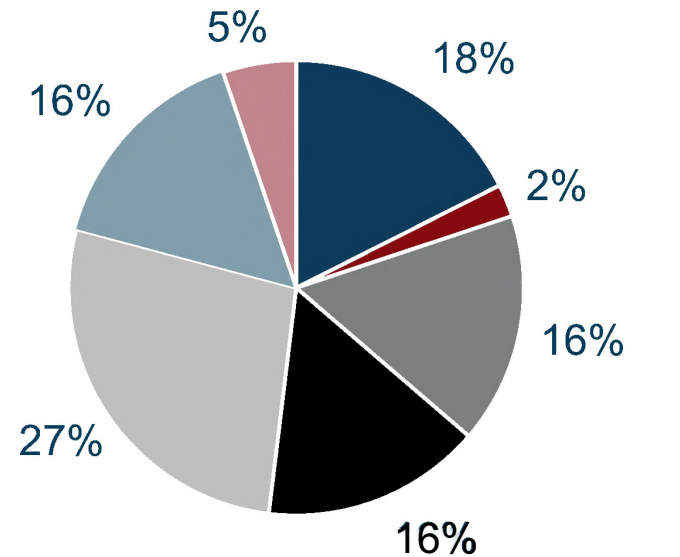
# MSCHE Snapshot

## Current Membership



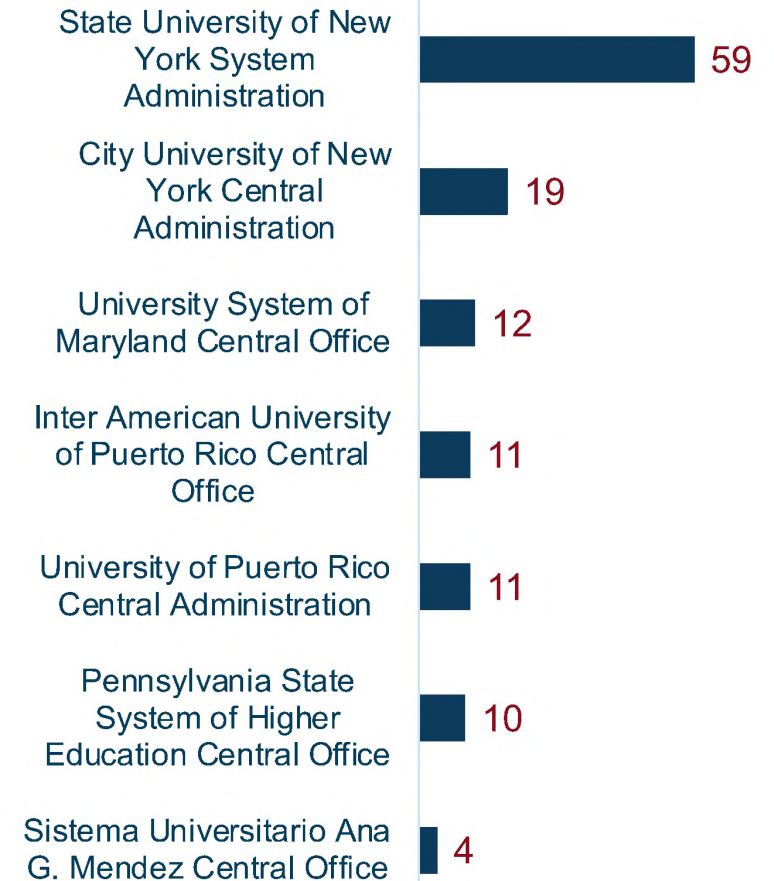
- Accredited
- Candidate

## Carnegie Classification



- Associates
- Bacc/Assoc
- Baccalaureate
- Doctoral
- Masters
- Special Focus
- Not classified

## Systems of Higher Education



# Some Statistics on MSCHE Institutions

## Institutional Control



# Middle States Commission on Higher Education

The Commission currently accredits institutions in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands

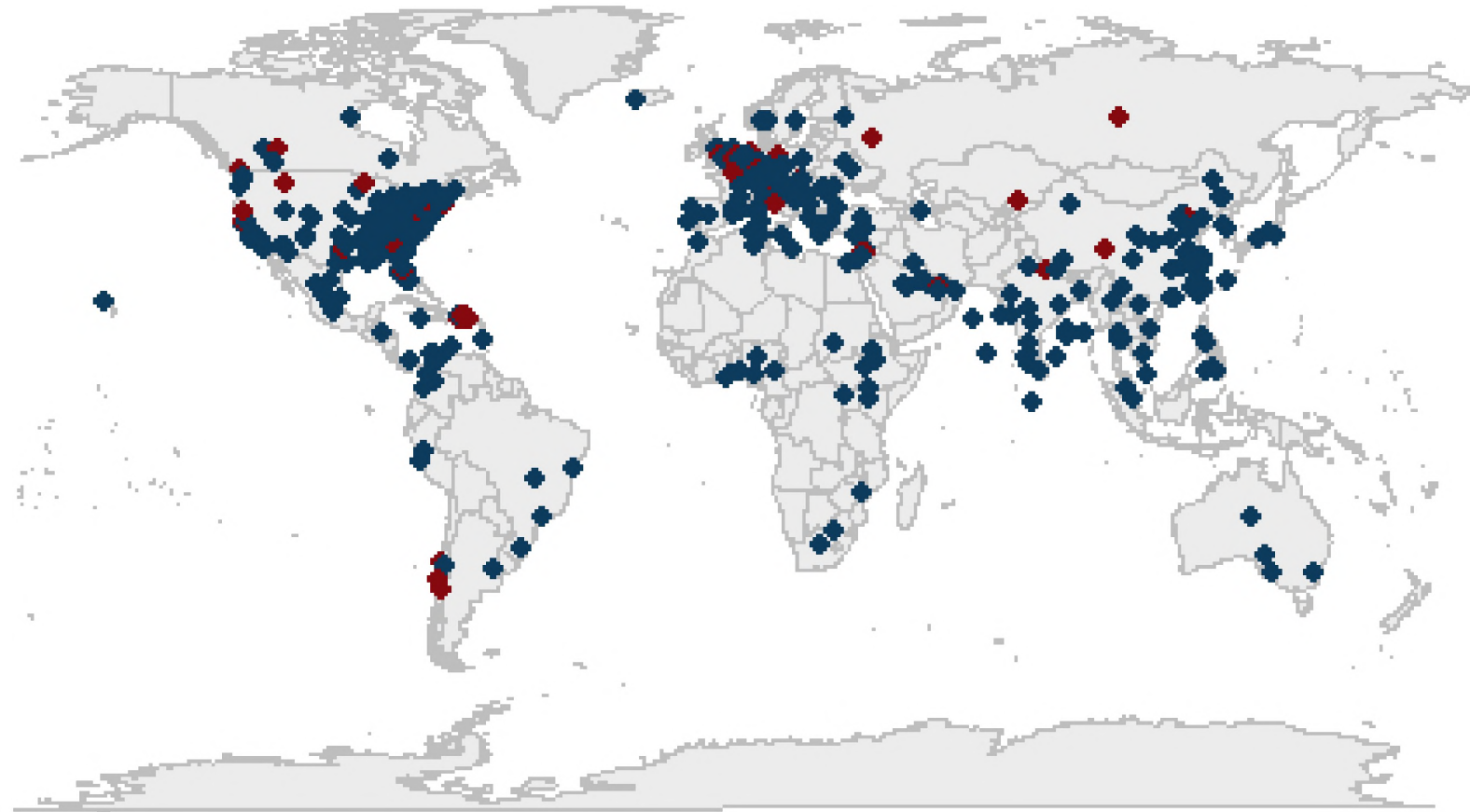
International institutions: 17

# Branch Campuses and Additional Locations

## Type of Location

Additional Location

Branch Campus

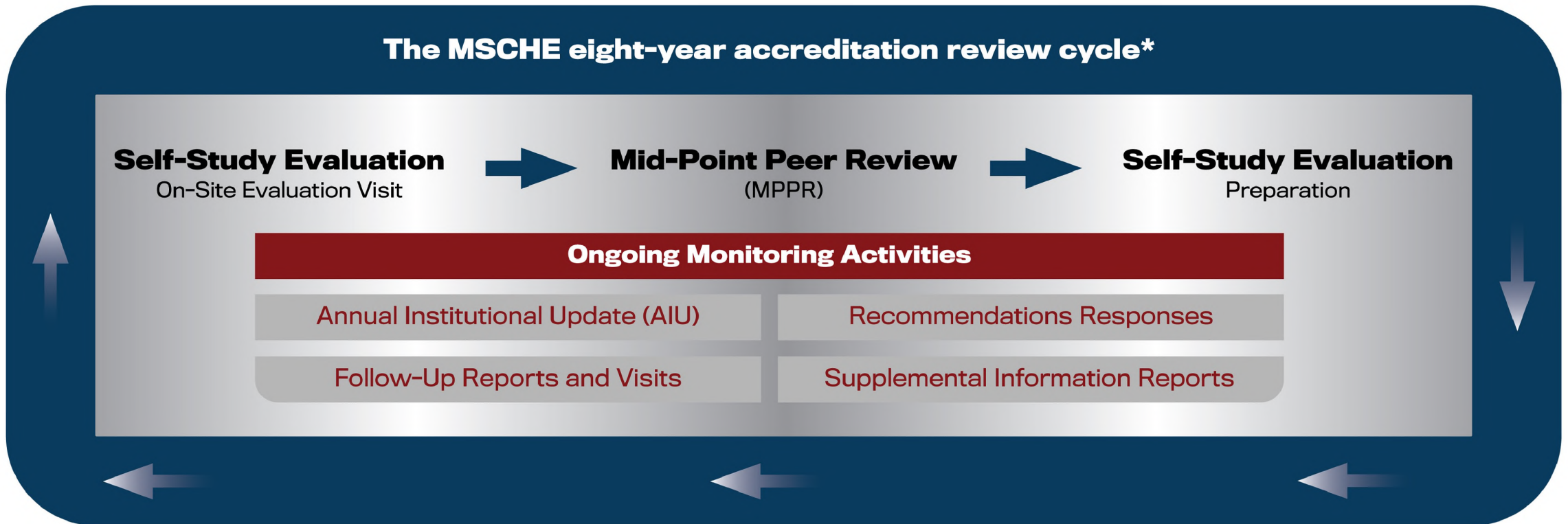




# Accreditation Cycle

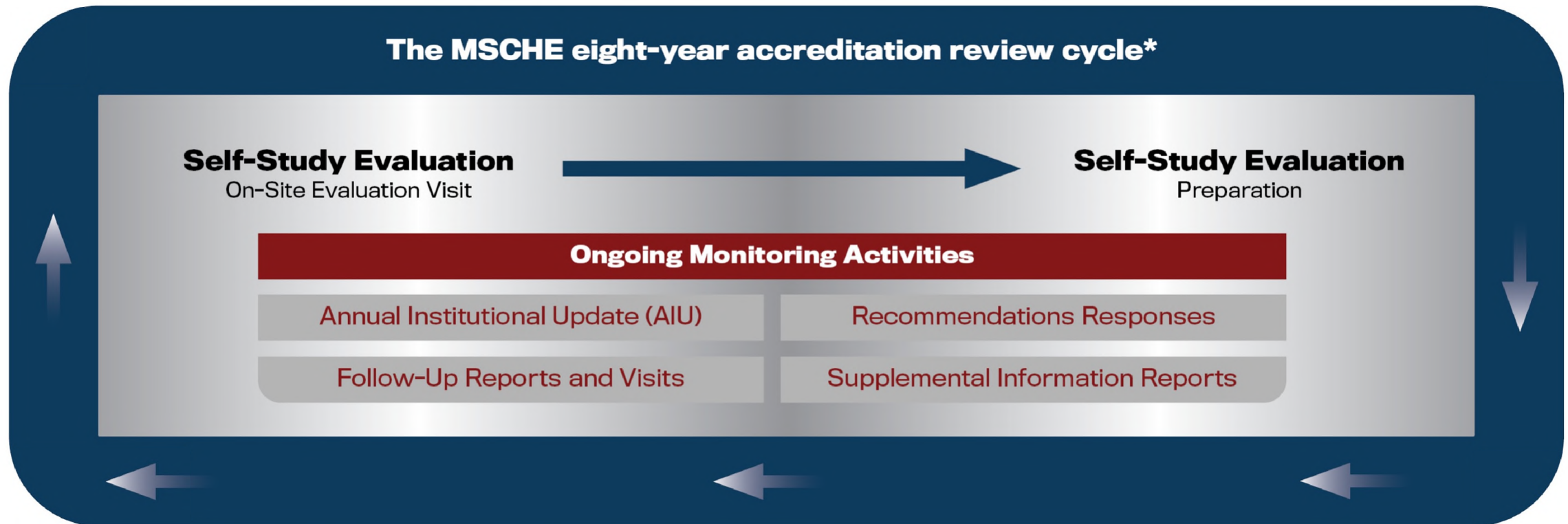
Current

# Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring For Institutions Seeking Grant of Accreditation or Reaffirmation



Proposed as of July 1, 2023

# Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring For Institutions Seeking Grant of Accreditation or Reaffirmation



# Expectations for Accreditation

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

Requirements of Affiliation

Standards for Accreditation

Federal compliance requirements

MSCHE policies and procedures

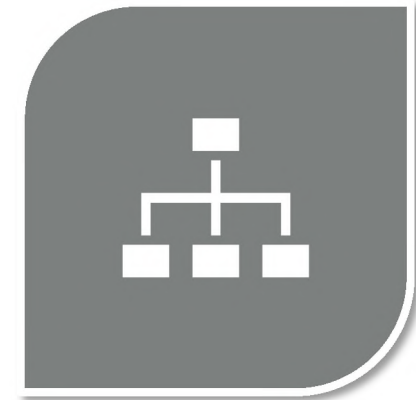
# Multi-Level Decision Making



PEER EVALUATORS



COMMITTEE ON  
EVALUATION REPORTS



COMMISSION

**STANDARDS**

**REQUIREMENTS OF AFFILIATION**

**STANDARD I**

**STANDARD II**

**STANDARD III**

**STANDARD IV**

**STANDARD V**

**STANDARD VI**

**STANDARD VII**

# STANDARDS

## Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation

An institution of higher education is a community dedicated to students, to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, to the study and clarification of values, and to the advancement of the society it serves. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), through accreditation, mandates that its member institutions meet rigorous and comprehensive standards, which are addressed in the context of the mission of each institution and within the culture of ethical practices and institutional integrity expected of accredited institutions. In meeting the quality standards of MSCHE accreditation, institutions earn accredited status, and this permits them to state with confidence: "Our students are well-served; society is well-served."



Download the [Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation](#).

# 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/>

# Standards for Accreditation



## **Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation**

Quality • Leadership • Innovation • Change • Advocacy • Outcomes • Higher Education • Students • Peer-Review • Priorities • Rigor • Leadership • Trust • Evaluation • Fair • Success • Excellence • Consistent • Student • Self-Study • Institutions • Quality • Data • Self-Assessment • Accountability • Integrity • Change • Advocacy • Outcomes • Innovation • Success • Mission • Higher Education • Students • Peer-Review • Priorities • Leadership • Equitable • Trust • Evaluation • Fair • Success • Excellence • Continuous • Improvement • Self-Study • Institutions • Quality • Data • Self-Assessment • Accountability • Integrity • Change • Advocacy • Outcomes • Innovation • Confidence • Mission • Higher Education • Students • Peer-Review • Leadership • Equitable • Trust • Evaluation • Fair • Success • Excellence • Standards • Improvement • Self-Study • Institutions • Quality • Assessment • Accreditation • Accountability • Integrity • Change • Advocacy • Innovation • Diverse • Confidence • Mission • Higher Education • Peer-Review • Priorities • Rigor • Leadership • Equitable • Trust • Evaluation • Excellence • Consistent • Standards • Improvement • Data • Self-Assessment • Accreditation • Accountability • Integrity

**Thirteenth Edition**

Standard I - Mission and Goals

Standard II - Ethics and Integrity

Standard III - Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

Standard IV - Support of the Student Experience

Standard V - Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Standard VI - Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

Standard VII - Governance, Leadership, and Administration

# MSCHE Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

- Policies
- Procedures
- Guidelines
- Templates

The screenshot shows the MSCHE website header with the logo, navigation links (Home, About Us, News, Events, Contact Us), and a LOGIN button. A search bar is also present. The main navigation menu includes: Institutions, Peer Evaluators, Policies, Standards, Student Resources, Commission Actions, Substantive Change, and Complaints. The page content is titled "POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES" and includes an introductory paragraph, a list of document types, a paragraph about the review process, and a contact email address. A sidebar on the left lists various policy-related links and news items.

**MSCHE**  
MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Home | About Us | News | Events | Contact Us **LOGIN**

Search:

Institutions ▾ Peer Evaluators ▾ Policies ▾ Standards Student Resources Commission Actions ▾ Substantive Change Complaints

**POLICIES**

**BROWSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**POLICIES UNDER REVIEW**

**FAQS FOR COVID-RELATED DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**POLICY NEWS**

**Technical Amendment Posted for Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring**  
*October 2, 2020*

**Virtual Town Hall Draws Over 1,000 Participants to Hear MSCHE Updates**  
*September 24, 2020*

**Revised Policies Cover Teach-Out Plans and Record Retention**  
*September 18, 2020*

**POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

In addition to the *Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation*, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE or the Commission) provides a comprehensive set of documents supporting the accreditation review protocol and related activities.



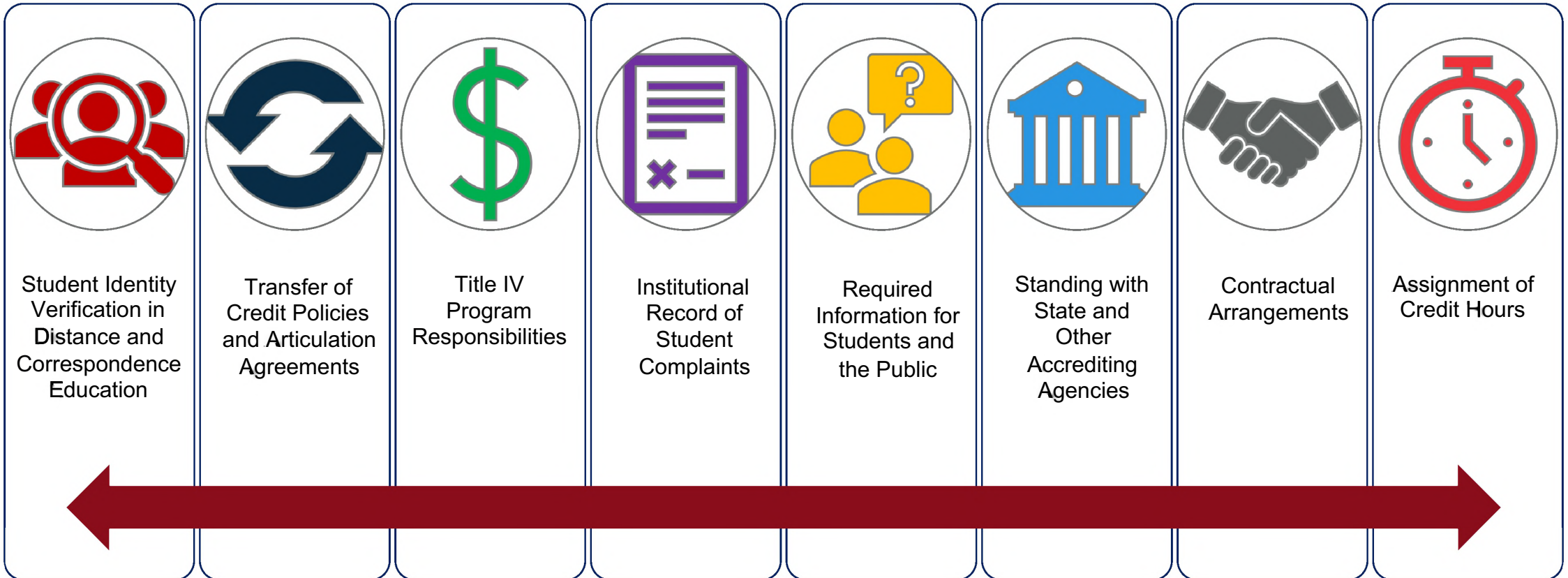
The Commission has the following types of documents: policy statement, accreditation policy, administrative policy, procedures, guidelines, and templates (request forms) which are defined in the policy *Review of Standards, Requirements of Affiliation, and Policies*. In keeping with the Commission's approach to policy development, each policy is accompanied by a set of procedures. The Commission may also develop guidelines to support and guide institutions, peer evaluators, and the Commission in the conduct of peer review and accreditation decision making.

The Commission's systematic process for reviewing its standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, and policies provides an opportunity for member institutions and other interested parties to review proposed accreditation policies and provide input.

The Commission accepts comments or feedback related to policy at any time through [policy@msche.org](mailto:policy@msche.org).

<https://www.msche.org/policies-guidelines/>

# Compliance with Federal Regulation



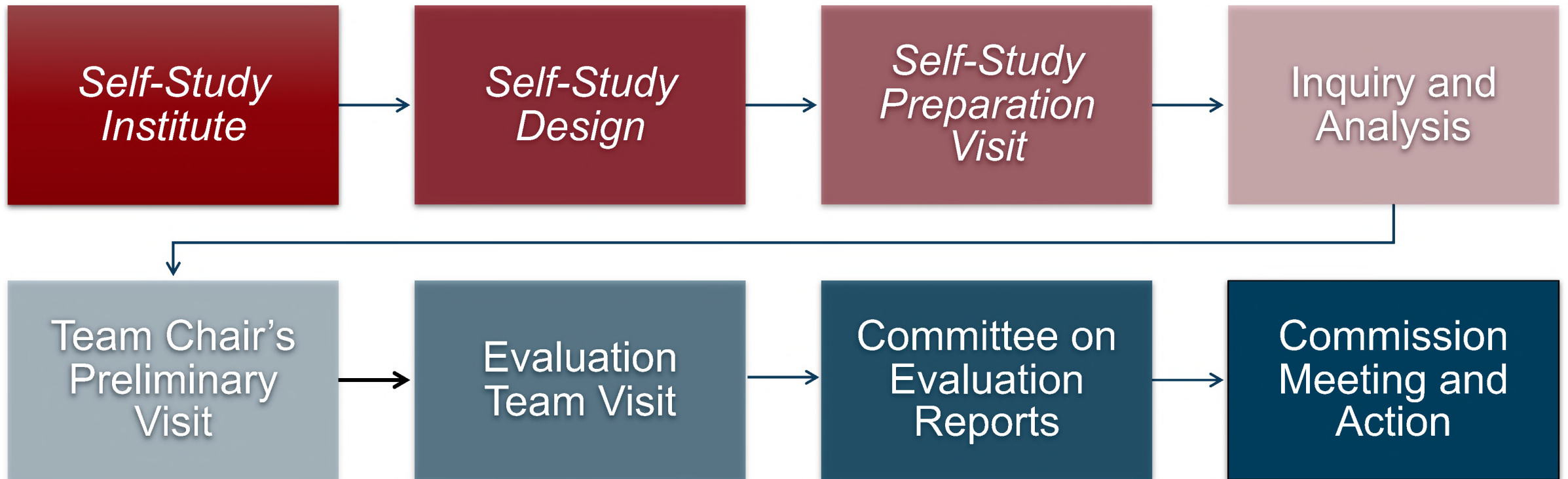
[Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations](#)



# Self-Study Process

# Self-Study Process

## 24-30 months



# Self-Study Evaluation Team Visit Dates

- Institutions must stay within their designated cohort.
- For the review to be discussed at the last Commission meeting of each academic year (June), the visit must occur **prior to April 15**.
- Coordinate visit dates with Team Chair and notify MSCHE staff.
- Once self-study dates are set, the **dates cannot be changed without approval by MSCHE**.



# Visits to Branch Campuses and Additional Locations

- Visits to branch campuses and/or additional locations must occur prior to the On-Site Self-Study Evaluation Team Visit.
- Visits must include:
  - All branch campuses
  - At least one additional location (domestic and international), or one-third if the institution has 4 or more additional locations
- Visits involve interviews with constituencies at each location, in addition to a tour of the facilities.
- Teams will include their review of the branch campuses and additional locations in the Self-Study Team Report.

# Self-Study Evaluation

Institutional self-study and on-site evaluation visit by peer evaluators

Focused on Commission expectations and institutional priorities

Results in granting or reaffirmation of accreditation or finding of non-compliance

May result in Commission recommendations



Salisbury University  
2023 DESIGN PLAN FOR THE  
2025 MSCHE REACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY

# Mission Statement

“Salisbury University is a premier comprehensive Maryland public university offering excellent, affordable education in undergraduate liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, health sciences, social work, and education and applied master’s and doctoral programs. Our highest purpose is to empower our students with the knowledge, skills, and core values that contribute to active citizenship, gainful employment, and life-long learning in a democratic society and interdependent world.”

# Institutional Priorities

**1. Enrich Academic Success and Student Development**

**2. Inspire a Campus Culture of Inclusive Excellence, Support and Collaboration**

**3. Support Access, Affordability, and Academic Excellence**

**4. Deepen Engagement with Our Community**

# Standards for Accreditation



## **Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation**

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Standard VII - Governance, Leadership, and Administration

Engage the SU community in an inclusive and transparent self-appraisal process that actively and deliberately involves members from all areas of the campus community.










Facilitate open and inclusive campus discussions about the University's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Encourage continuous improvement in the attainment of our institutional Mission and priorities.

Compose a comprehensive document with a common vision and goals that can be used for future planning.

Reaffirm that the University meets each of the seven MSCHE Standards for Accreditation and the Requirements of Affiliation, resulting in our reaccreditation.

# Well-Designed Lines of Inquiry or Research Questions

	Relationship to Mission	Relationship to Designated Priority	Relationship to Accreditation Requirements and Standards
“In what ways does the institution succeed in contracting with third-party providers within the student services domain?”			
“In what ways does the institution vet assessment methods to ensure they are defensible? How can it improve?”			
“To what extent does the institution include the perspectives of the local community and its employers when evaluating its mission?”			



# 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



## Students

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

## Staff

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

## Faculty

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

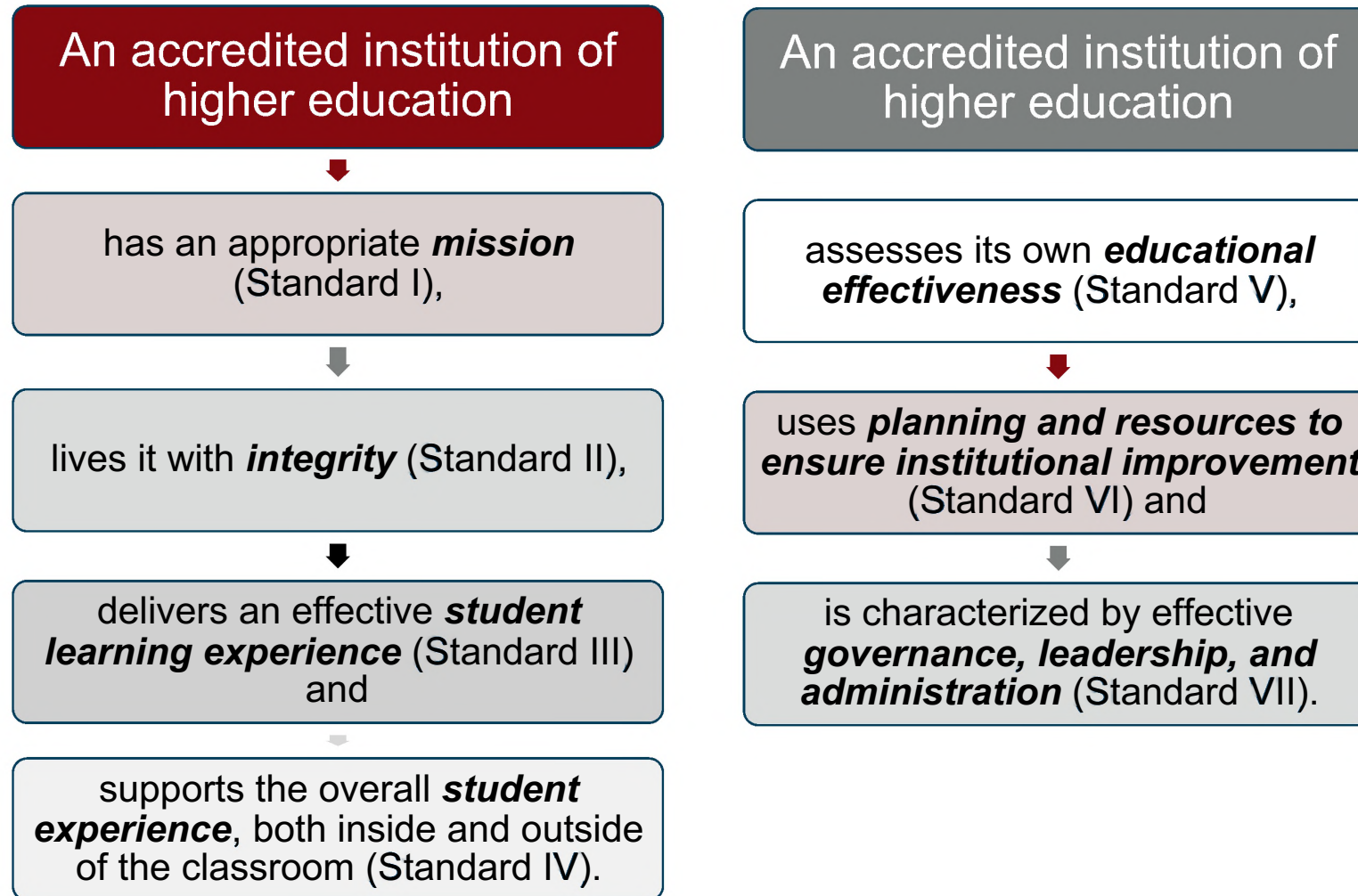
## Administration

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

## Governing Board

- Provide information and feedback and meet with Visiting Team
- Review final self-study report

# “Elevator Speech” During and After Re-Affirmation



# Resources at MSCHE

***Vice President Liaison***  
***Dr. Sean A. McKittrick,***  
***[smckitrick@msche.org](mailto:smckitrick@msche.org)***

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

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



# Follow Us ...

# @mscheorg





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