Introduction to the 2014 Standards and the Requirements of Affiliation

Guiding Principles

Mission Centered
Student Learning
Innovation
Continuous Improvement

Key Elements of the Standards

Assessment
Embedded Topics
Improvement & Compliance

Substantial Measure
Mission
Standards
Mission

MSCHE respects the diversity of institutions
Each institution articulates its own purposes, who it serves, what it intends to accomplish
Mission is the context for all accreditation activities

Substantial Measure

Standards and their criteria are not a checklist
Institutions should satisfy the standards “in substantial measure”
The whole is greater than the sum of its parts

Embedded Topics

Role of the faculty and other instructional personnel
Rigor and coherence regardless of level, format, or modality
Access and affordability
Institutional accountability in partnerships with third party vendors
Improvement and Compliance

MSCHE committed to quality assurance and continuous improvement
Charged by USDE with compliance verification
Two goals are inter-related

The Seven Standards

| Standard I | Mission and Goals                           | Criterion 4 | “Periodic assessment of mission and goals to ensure they are relevant and achievable.” |
| Standard II | Ethics and Integrity                        | Criterion 9 | “Periodic assessment of ethics and integrity as evidenced in institutional processes, practices, and the manner in which these are implemented.” |
| Standard III | Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience | Criterion 8 | “Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of programs in providing student learning opportunities.” |
| Standard IV | Support of the Student Experience           | Criterion 6 | “Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of programs supporting the student experience.” |
| Standard V | Educational Effectiveness Assessment        | Criterion 5 | “Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of assessment processes for the improvement of educational effectiveness.” |
| Standard VI | Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement | Criterion 9 | “Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of planning, resource allocation, institutional renewal processes, and availability of resources.” |
| Standard VII | Governance, Leadership, and Administration  | Criterion 5 | “Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of governance, leadership, and administration.” |
Assessment: Key Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaningful</th>
<th>Useful</th>
<th>Cost Effective/Efficient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To what extent do institutional stakeholders trust assessment results?</td>
<td>How engaged are institutional stakeholders in the process?</td>
<td>What has been the &quot;value added&quot; of the assessment process up to now?</td>
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<td>How well are assessment results related to goals and objectives?</td>
<td>How collaborative has the assessment process been?</td>
<td>Is the current process so complex that it is unsustainable?</td>
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<tr>
<td>To what extent do the assessments have potential for revealing &quot;the truth,&quot; no matter how uncomfortable?</td>
<td>To what degree has the assessment process impacted student learning?</td>
<td>To what extent has assessment become a natural rather than imposed process?</td>
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An accredited institution of higher education
- has an appropriate mission (Standard I),
- lives it with integrity (Standard II),
- delivers an effective student learning experience (Standard III) and
- supports the overall student experience, both inside and outside of the classroom (Standard IV).

An accredited institution of higher education
- assesses its own educational effectiveness (Standard V),
- uses planning and resources to ensure institutional improvement (Standard VI) and
- is characterized by effective governance, leadership, and administration (Standard VII).

Intersections

Requirements of Affiliation
 Verification of Compliance
 MSCHE Guidelines

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Requirements

Standards for Accreditation
 Requirements of Affiliation

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Requirements of Affiliation

1. Authorized to operate
2. Operates
3. Graduated one class
4. Communicates in English
5. Regulatory compliance
6. Policy compliance
7. Mission and goals
8. Evaluates programs
9. Rigor, coherence, and assessment
10. Integrated planning
11. Resources
12. Governance
13. Governance and conflict of interest
14. Governance and accurate institutional information
15. Faculty

Standards & Requirements of Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement of Affiliation</th>
<th>Demonstrate Compliance In</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 7 Mission and goals</td>
<td>Standard I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 8 Systematic evaluation of all programs</td>
<td>Standards III, IV, V, VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 9 Rigor, coherence and assessment</td>
<td>Standards III, V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 10 Institutional planning</td>
<td>Standards I, III, IV, V, VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 11 Financial resources</td>
<td>Standard VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 12 Governance structure</td>
<td>Standard VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 13 Governing board conflict of interest</td>
<td>Standard VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement 15 Faculty</td>
<td>Standard III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Holistic Approach

- Documentation Roadmap
- Requirements of Affiliation
- Standards
- Criteria
- Federal Regulations & Hot Button Issues
Applying Principles

Holistic Analysis

Mission Critical

Federal "Hot button" Issues

Intersections

Meeting Expectations

Consider the institution’s mission and environment
- What is the institution trying to accomplish?
- How well are those aims being achieved?
- How is the institution ensuring continuous improvement?

Apply the Standards to the institution using professional judgment and common sense

Meeting Expectations

Does the institution provide sufficient evidence that it meets the Standard under review in substantial measure?
- Do the Self-Study narrative and Documentation Roadmap provide evidence?
- Do answers to interview questions support the claims of the Self-Study?
- Does the institution have realistic plans for improvement?
Looking for Evidence
Self-Study Report & Documentation Roadmap

Evidence of consistency across operations and offerings

Evidence of current & sustainable compliance
  - Implemented processes and results
  - Structures to ensure sustainability

Questions?