



# Self-Study Preparation Visit to

**IU** Indiana University  
of Pennsylvania

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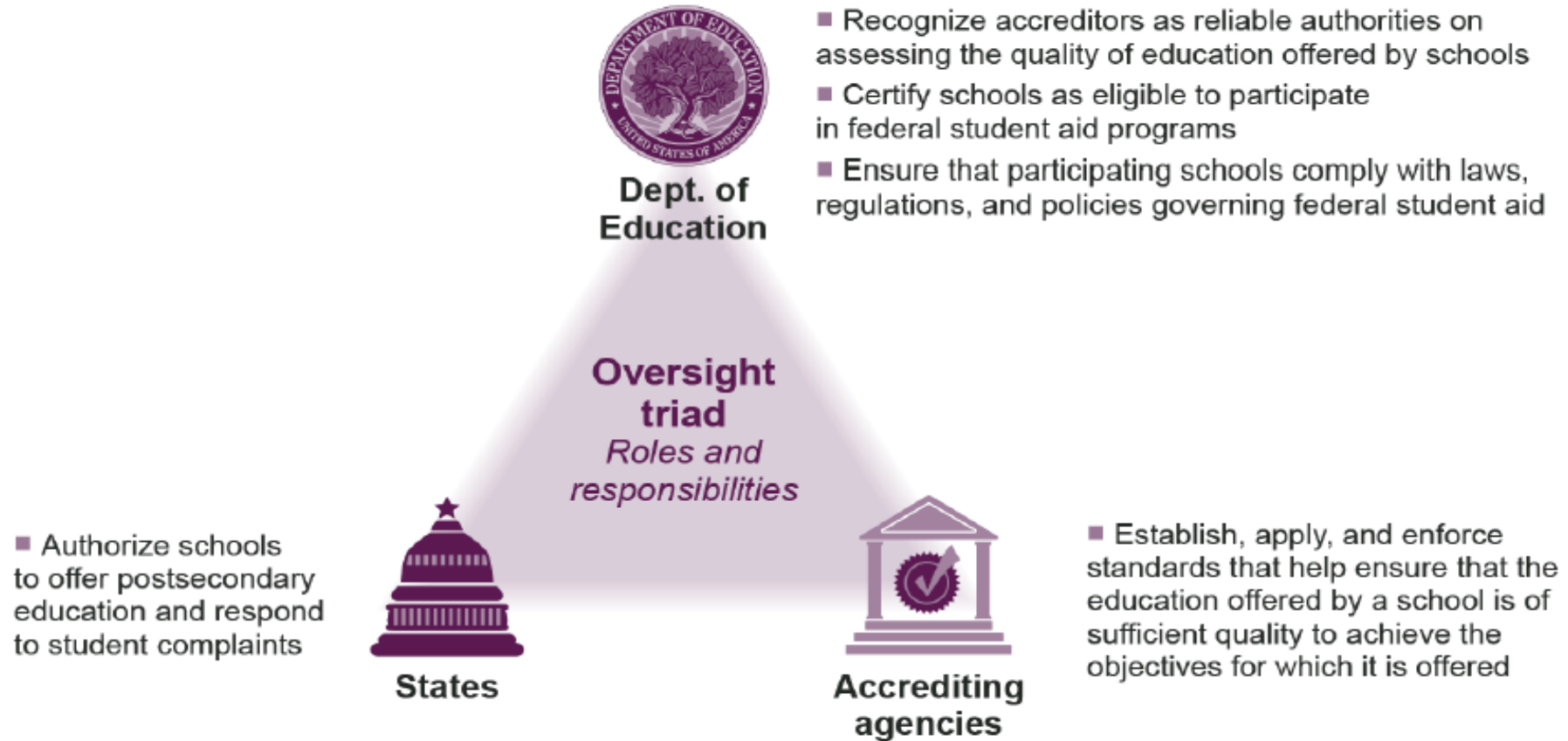
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# Why Accreditation?

- Accreditation is “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 and improvement.



# The Regulatory Triad



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



# What is MSCHE?

# MSCHE Mission

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education assures students and the public of the **educational quality** of higher education. The Commission's accreditation process ensures **institutional accountability, self-appraisal, improvement, and innovation** through **peer review** and the rigorous **application of standards** within the context of **institutional mission**.

# 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.

# Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Member and Candidate  
Institutions: 515+

States: New York, New  
Jersey, Pennsylvania,  
Delaware, Maryland,  
District of Columbia,  
Florida

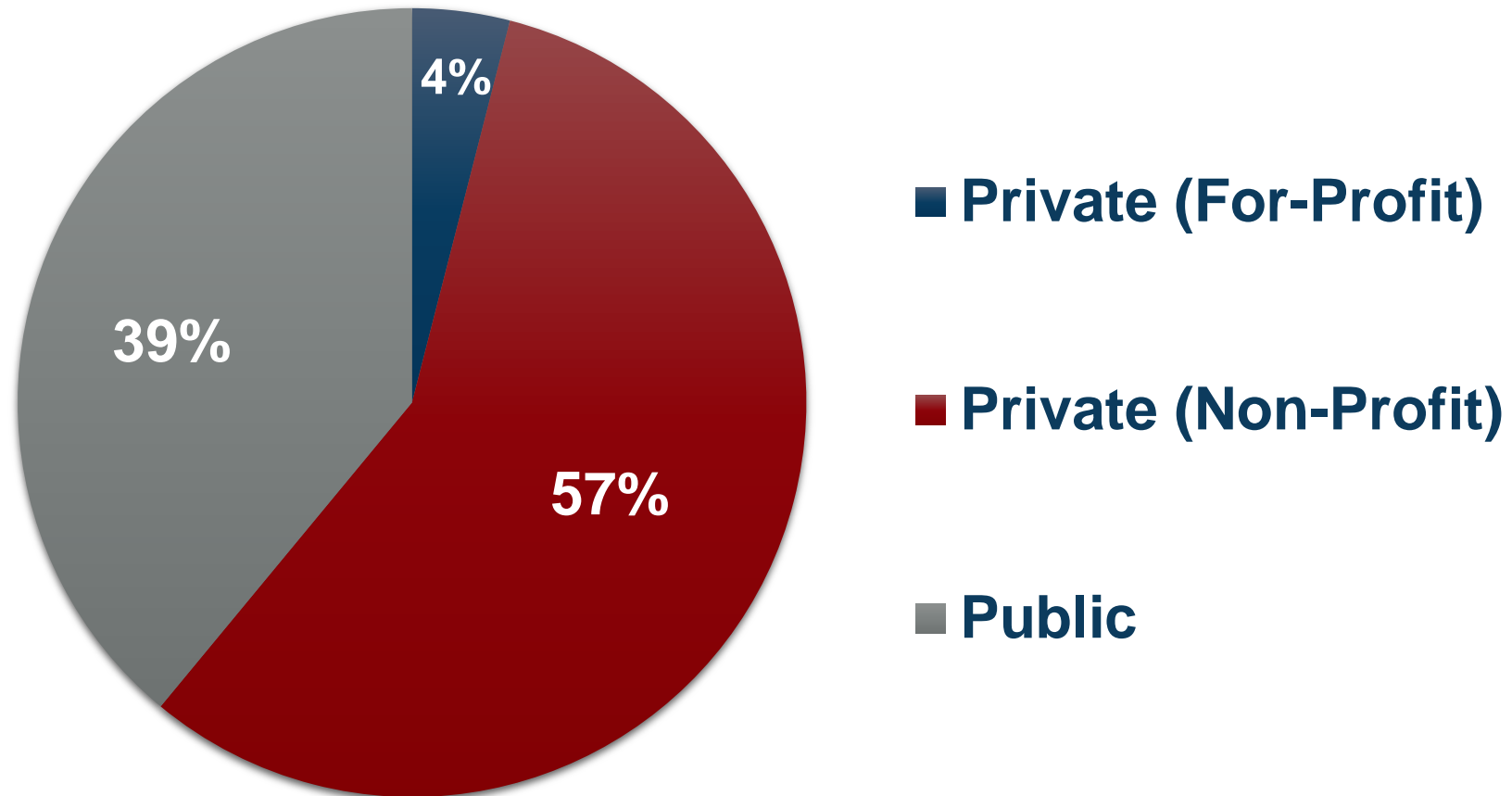
Territories: Puerto Rico,  
US Virgin Islands

International  
institutions: 18



# Some Statistics on MSCHE Institutions

## Institutional Control



# Map of MSCHE Institutional Locations



# MSCHE Branch Campuses & Additional Locations



# Who is the Commission?



# The Commission

## 27 elected members representing the Region

- Presidents
- Senior Administrators
- Faculty
- Public Members

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



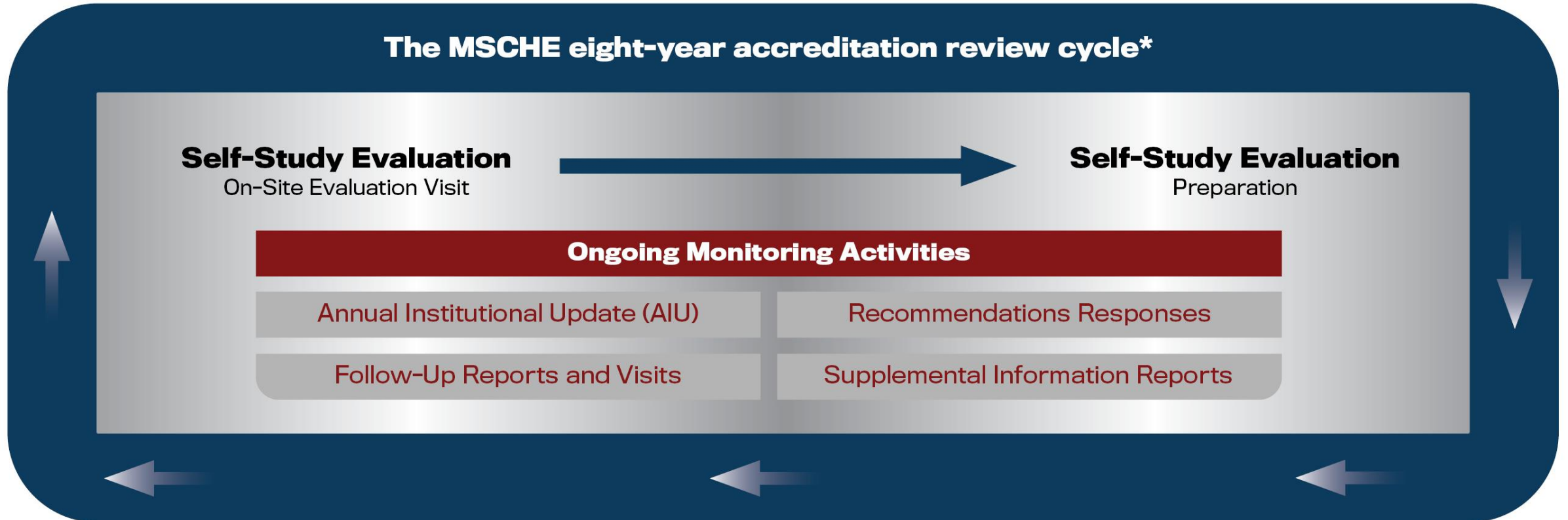
# Accreditation Cycle



# Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring

## For Institutions Seeking Grant of Accreditation or Reaffirmation

### The MSCHE eight-year accreditation review cycle\*



\*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

### 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



Mission and Goals



Ethics and Integrity



Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience



Support of the Student Experience



Educational Effectiveness assessment



Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement



Governance, Leadership, and Administration

# Federal Compliance and MSCHE Policies & Procedures



## Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations

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



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### POLICIES

[BROWSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES](#)

[POLICIES UNDER REVIEW](#)

[FAQS FOR COVID-RELATED DISTANCE EDUCATION](#)

### POLICY NEWS

[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

[FAQs For COVID-Related Distance Education](#)

September 8, 2020

[MSCHE Endorses Domestic and International Membership Expansion](#)

July 13, 2020

[View All Policy News](#)

### 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.



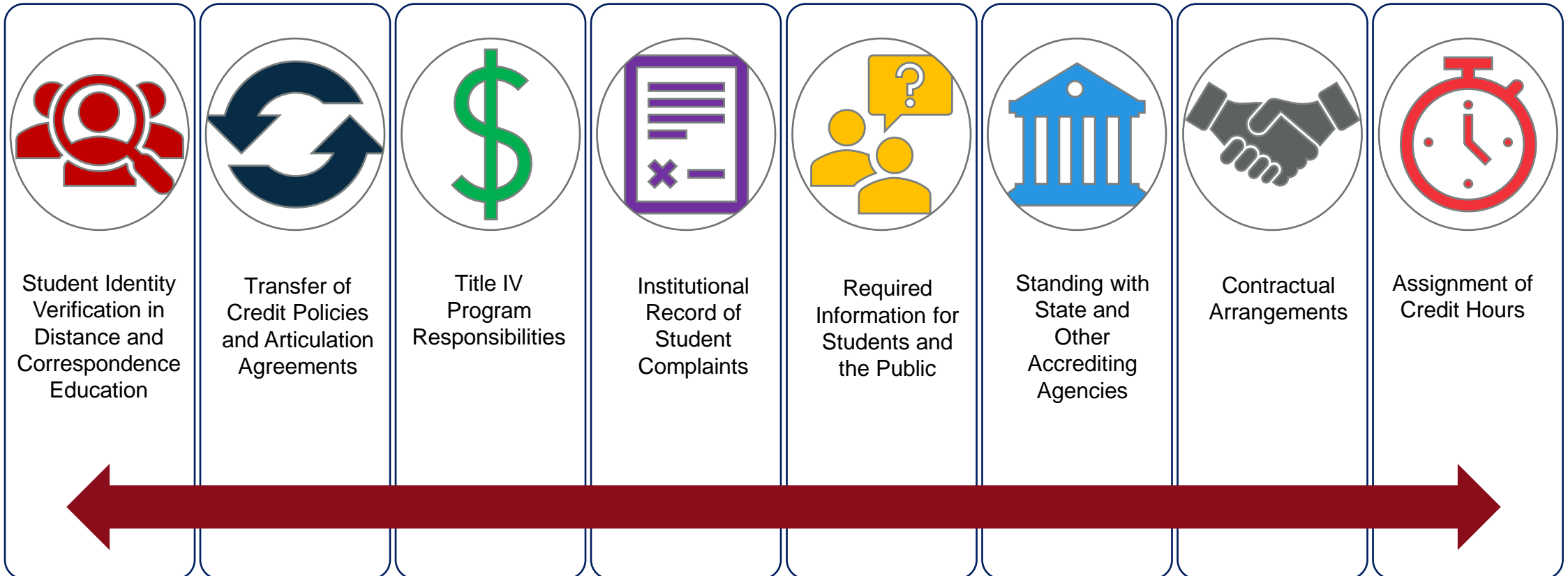
The Commission has the following types of documents: policy statement, accreditation policy, administrative policy, procedures, guidelines, and templates (request forms) which are defined in the policy *Review of Standards, Requirements of Affiliation, and Policies*. In keeping with the Commission's 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/>

# 8 Areas: Compliance with Federal Regulation



Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations



# Self-Study Process



# Self-Study Guide



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## SELF-STUDY GUIDE

MODULE ONE - INTRODUCTION TO MSCHE AND ACCREDITATION

MODULE TWO - INITIATING THE SELF-STUDY PROCESS

MODULE THREE - DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE SELF-STUDY DESIGN

MODULE FOUR - HOSTING A SELF-STUDY PREPARATION VISIT

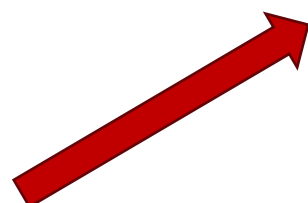
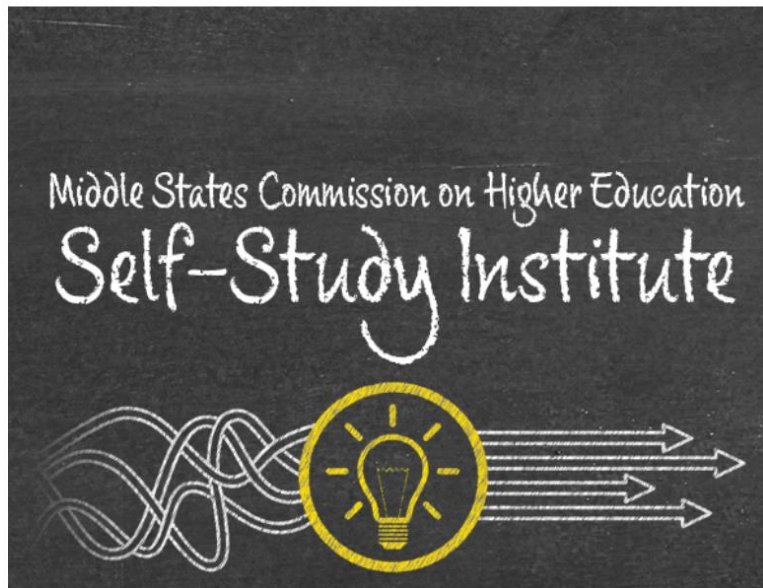
MODULE FIVE - WRITING THE SELF-STUDY REPORT

MODULE SIX - DEVELOPING AND USING THE EVIDENCE INVENTORY

MODULE SEVEN - HOSTING AN ON-SITE EVALUATION VISIT

Accreditation > Self-Study Guide

## SELF-STUDY GUIDE



<https://www.msche.org/accreditation/self-study-guide/>

Strategies for Overseeing the Self-Study Process before the Self-Study Report (Module 5, Section 1) ▾

Working Group Reports (Module 5, Section 2) ▾

Discussion(s) about Final Working Group Reports by the Steering Committee (Module 5, Section 3) ▾

Writing the Self-Study Report (Module 5, Section 4) ▾

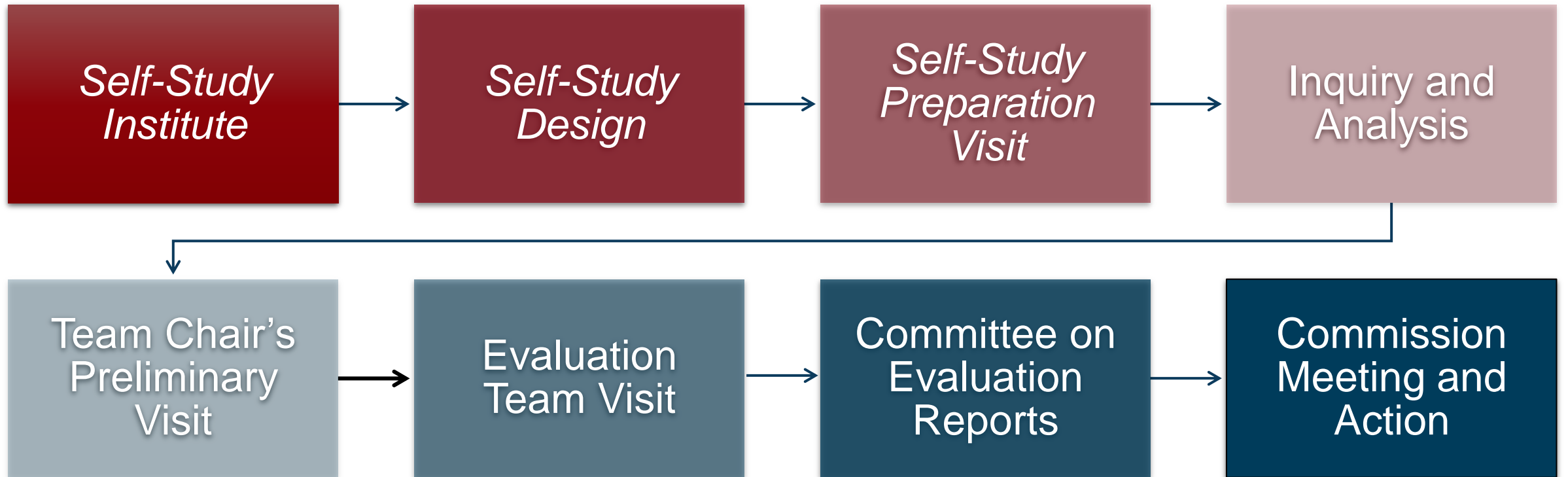
Main Elements of the Self-Study Report (Module 5, Section 5) ▾

Keys to Success (Module 5, Section 6) ▾

Sample - (Interim) Final Working Group Report (Module 5, Section 7) ▾

# Self-Study Process

## 24-30 months





# Self-Study Process

## Steering Committee and Working Groups



Engage in a meaningful Self-Study process, focusing on mission and 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

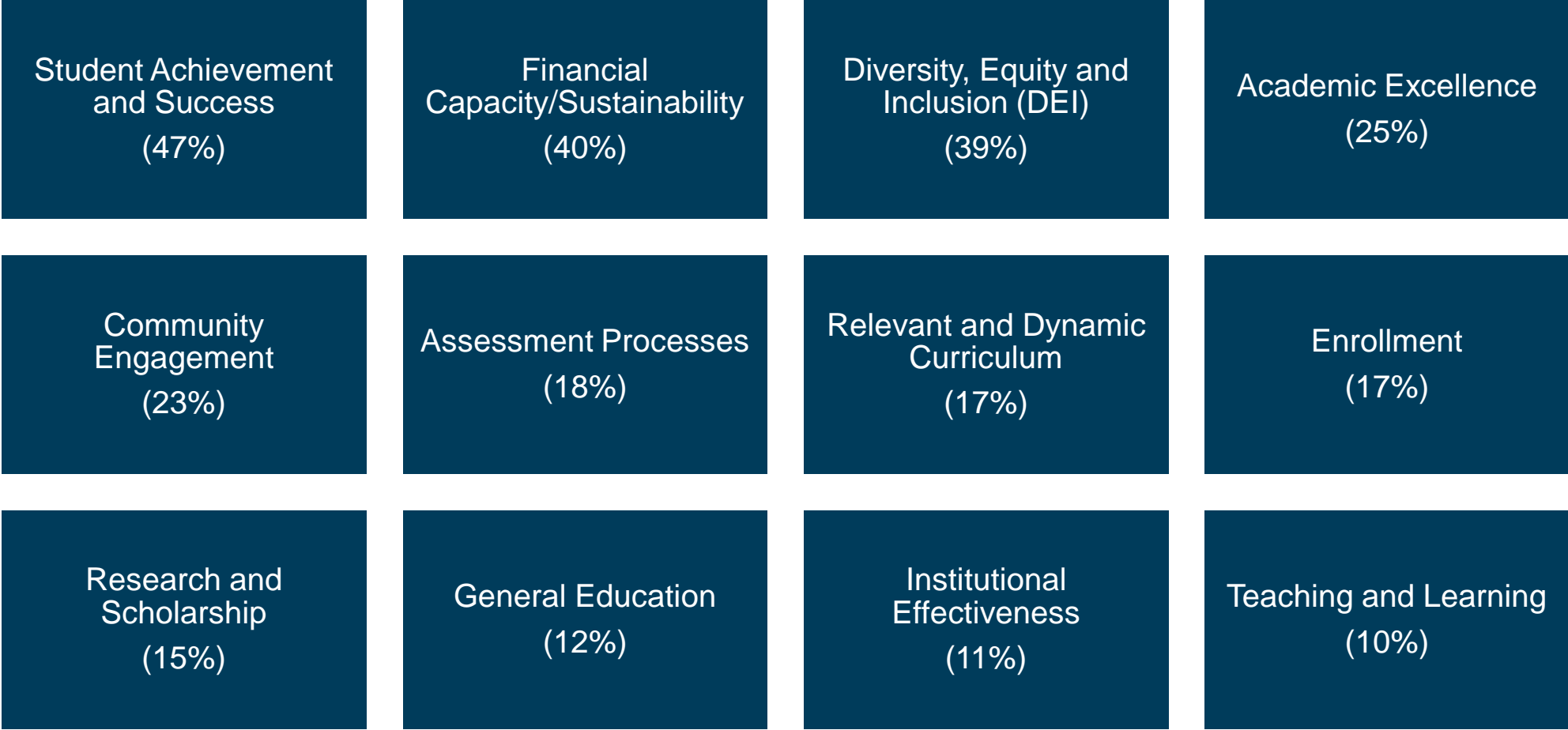
**Make every student a priority**

**Ensure alignment of resources leading to a financially sustainable institution**

**Cultivate a campus culture that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion**

**Promote the production of and dissemination of knowledge, providing a wide range of intellectual, social, and professional opportunities for students**

# Self-Reported Institutional Priorities 2020-2022



# Visits associated with Self-Study

**1. Self-Study Preparation Visit**

**2. Team Chair's Preliminary Visit**

**3. On-Site Evaluation Visit**

# 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**.



# Evidence Inventory

- MSCHE will release a companion document to the new Standards, which will include guidance on required data (student achievement, policies and processes, assessment, financial, planning, etc.) to be submitted in the Evidence Inventory
- MSCHE staff will offer a webinar to provide guidance on organizing and populating the Evidence Inventory
  - Fall 2023 – for fall 2024 visits
  - Spring 2024 – for spring 2025 visits
- **Note requirement to submit evidence in English**



# 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.

# Types of Findings

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

**Collegial Advice**

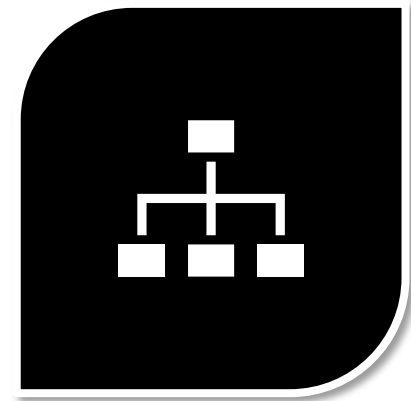
**Recommendations**

**Requirements**





# Multi- Level Analysis



**PEER EVALUATORS**

**COMMITTEE ON  
EVALUATION REPORTS**

**COMMISSION**

# Possible Commission Actions

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Reaffirmation with Follow-up

Non-Compliance

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

*“The self-study process should be valuable to an institution, enabling it to demonstrate that it meets the Commission’s expectations and to gain insights that will serve the institution well for several years after the Self-Study Report and On-Site Evaluation Visit have been completed. Self-study demonstrates an institution’s commitment to continuous improvement and is used to strengthen and sustain the institution”*

# Institutional Areas of Improvement

Assessment Processes	Collegial Governance	Curriculum	Mission & Goals	Policies & Procedures	Diversity and Inclusion
HR Outreach & Effectiveness	BOT Best Practices	Data	Experiential & Co-Curricular Learning	General Education Assessment	Budgeting & Planning
Strategic Enrollment Plan	Advising	Student Achievement	Policy Review Process	Unit Strategic Planning	Web-Site

# 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 & Administration

- 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

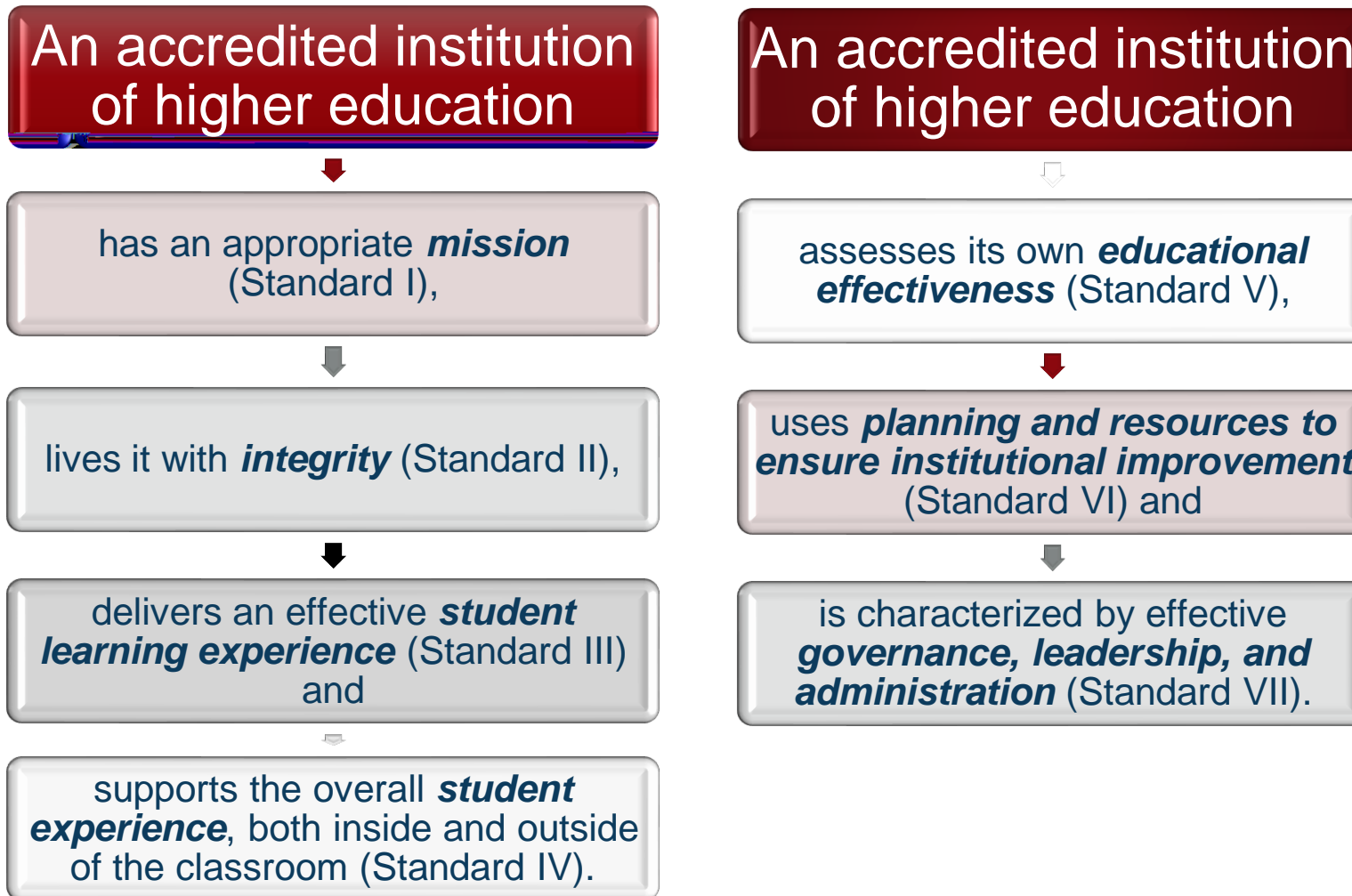
## Students

- 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

# “Elevator Speech” During and After Re-Affirmation



# Resources at MSCHE

*Vice President Liaison*

*Dr. Paul Starkey*

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

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

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





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