



Self-Study Preparation Open Meeting



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March 28, 2023

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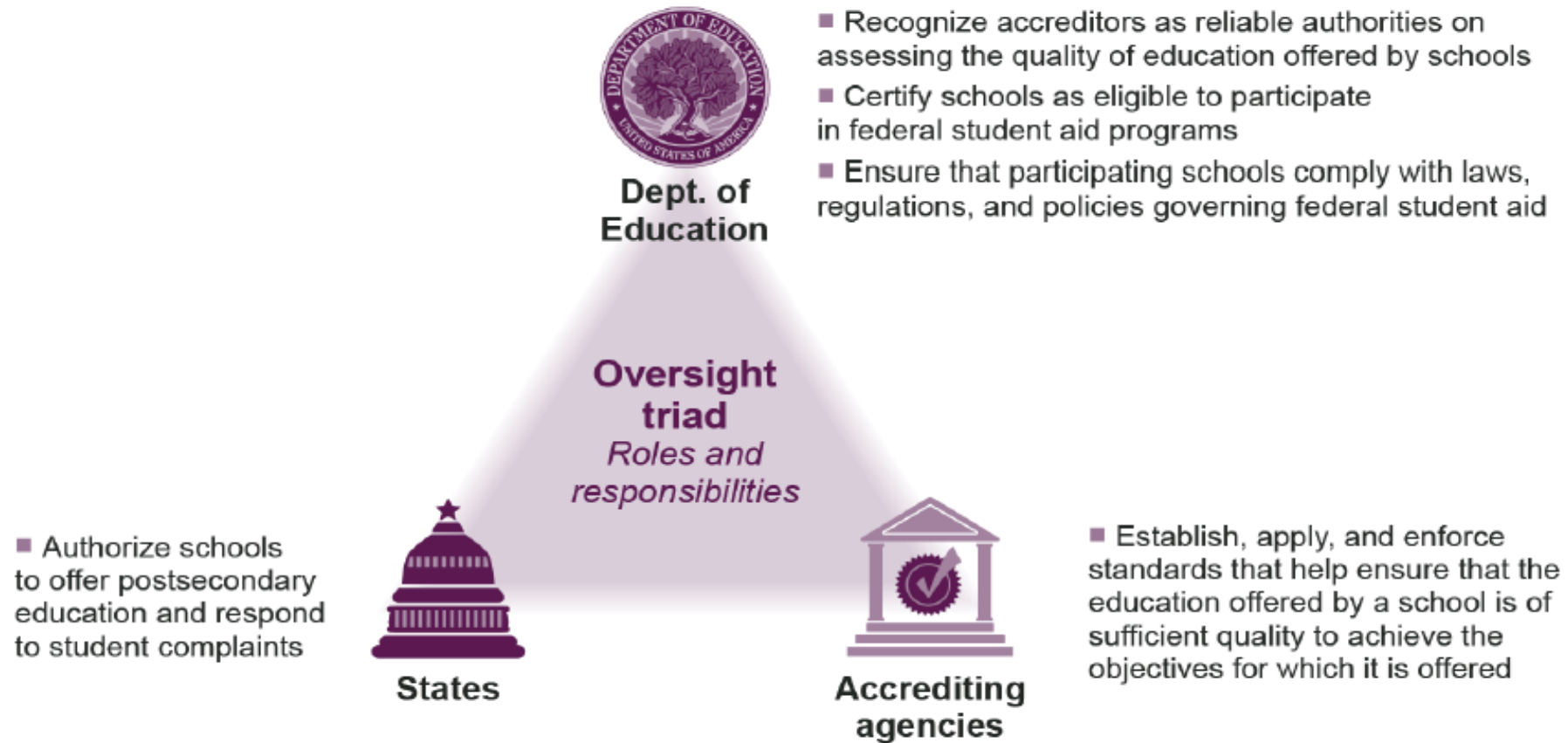
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Why Accreditation?

- 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**

Space and Facilities

Information Technology

DEI

Student Achievement

Mentoring or Tutoring

Experiential Learning

Admissions and Recruitment

Advising

Policies

Online

**#3:
It Fosters
Innovation**

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

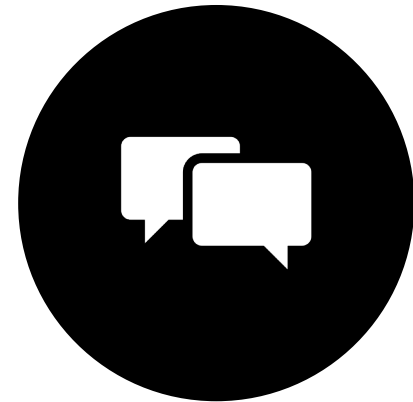
#4: Member Institutions Engage Within a Learning Community



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

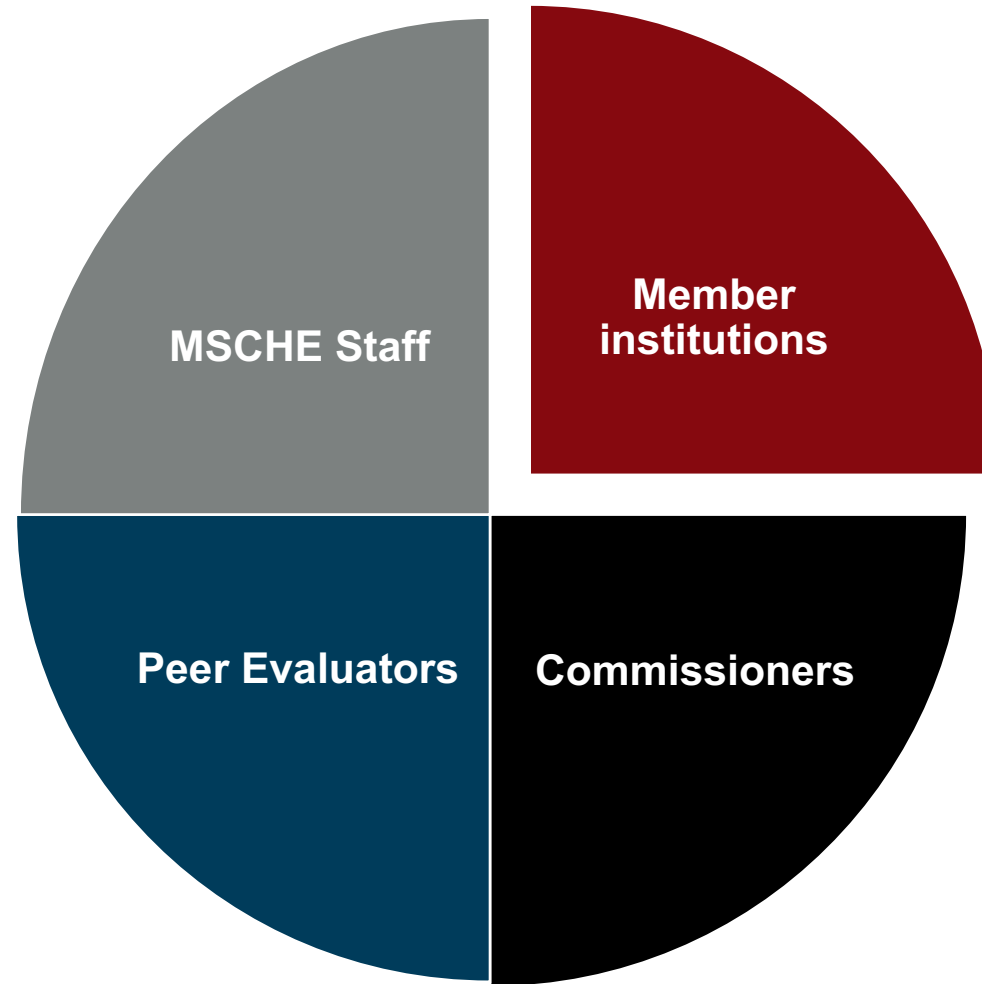
We fuel discovery and progress for our community and society as an independent voice in higher education.

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

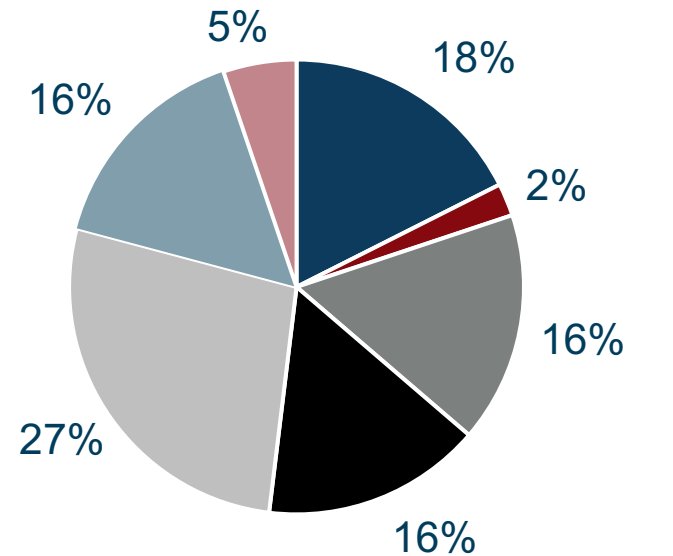
MSCHE Snapshot

Current Membership



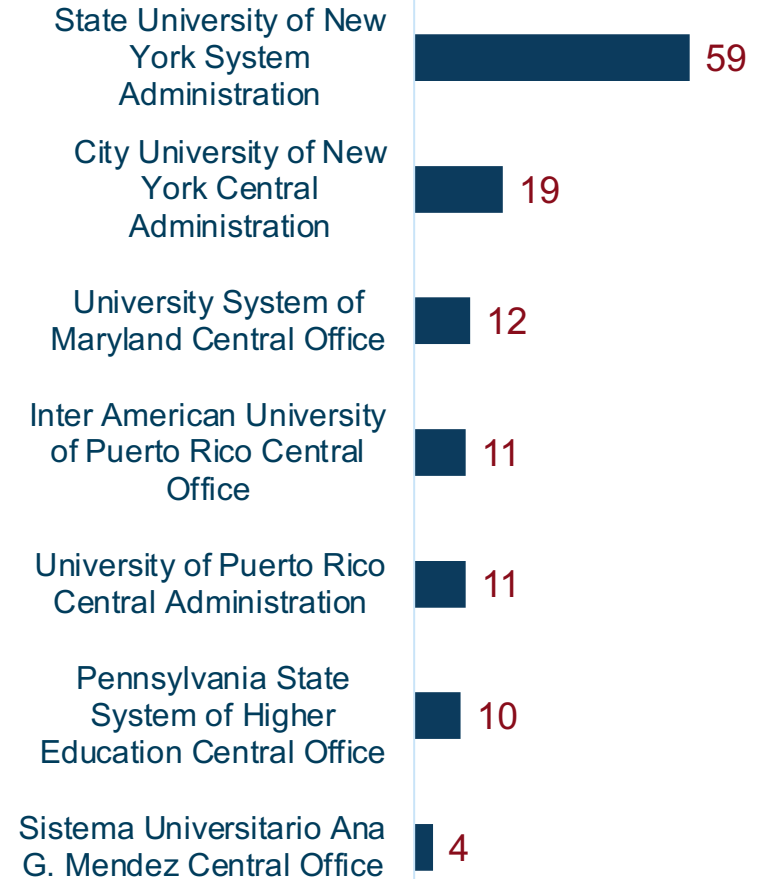
- Accredited
- Candidate

Carnegie Classification



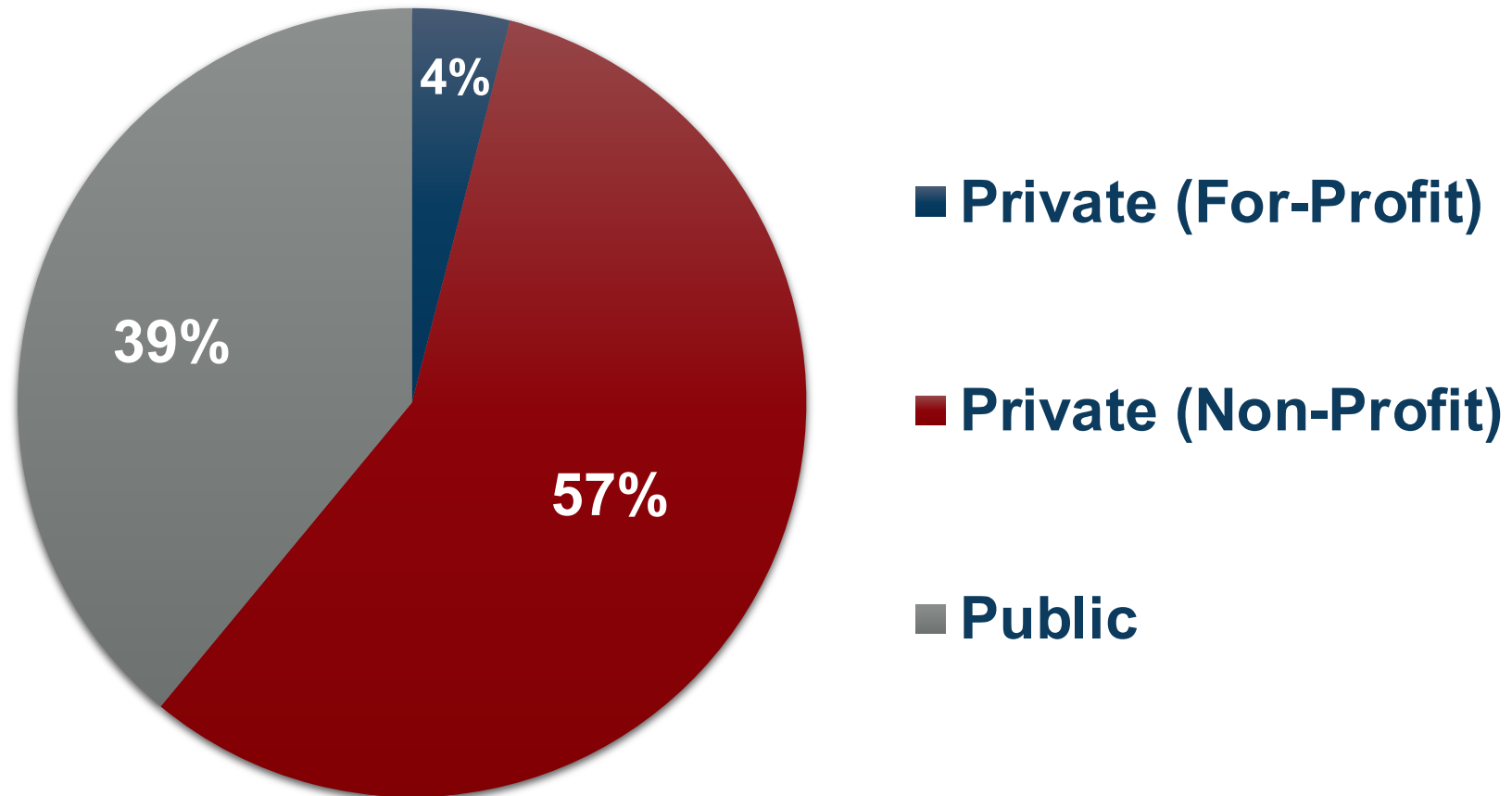
- Associates
- Bacc/Assoc
- Baccalaureate
- Doctoral
- Masters
- Special Focus
- Not classified

Systems of Higher Education



Some Statistics on MSCHE Institutions

Institutional Control



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

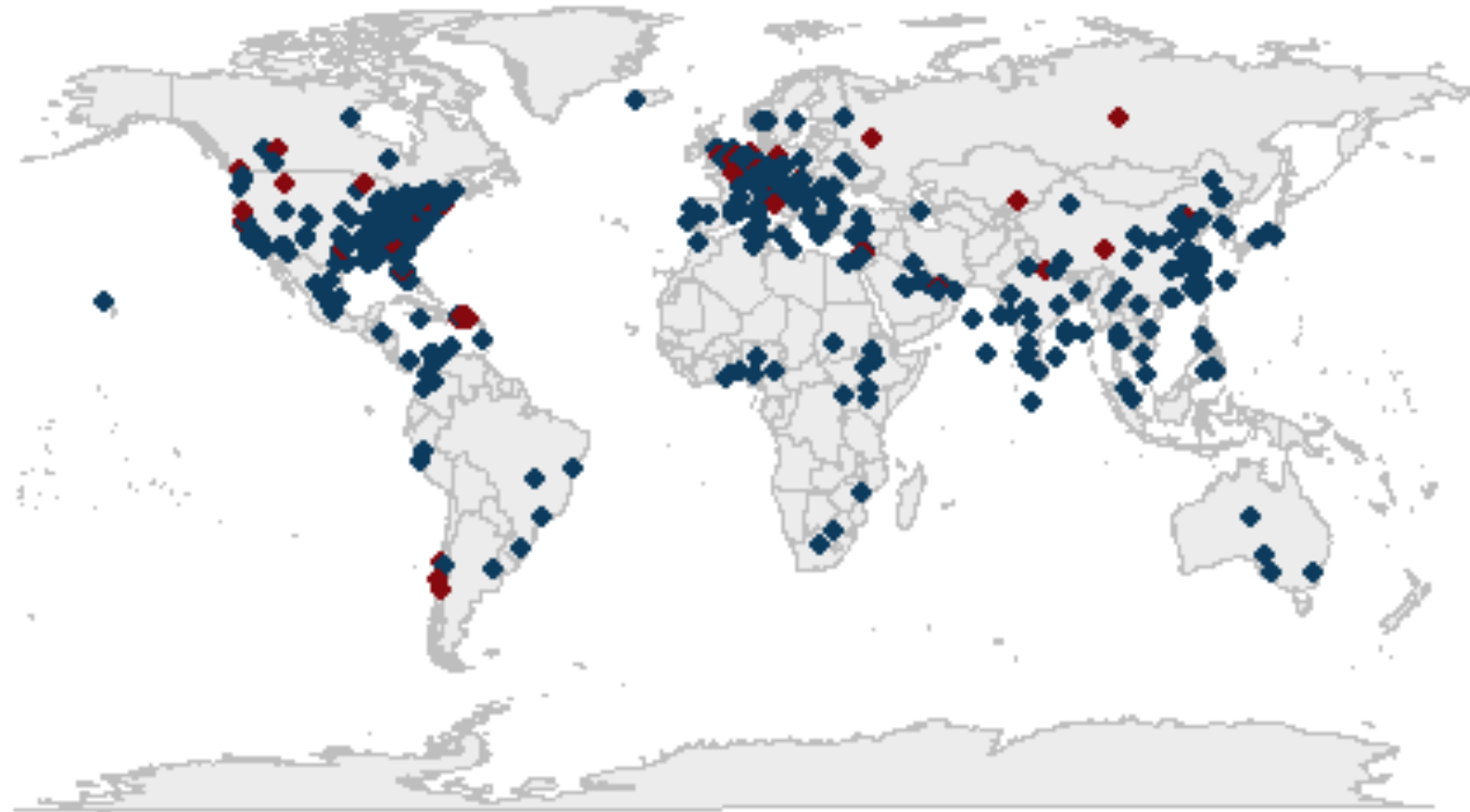
The Commission currently accredits institutions in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands

International institutions: 17

Branch Campuses and Additional Locations

Type of Location

- ◆ Additional Location
- ◆ Branch Campus

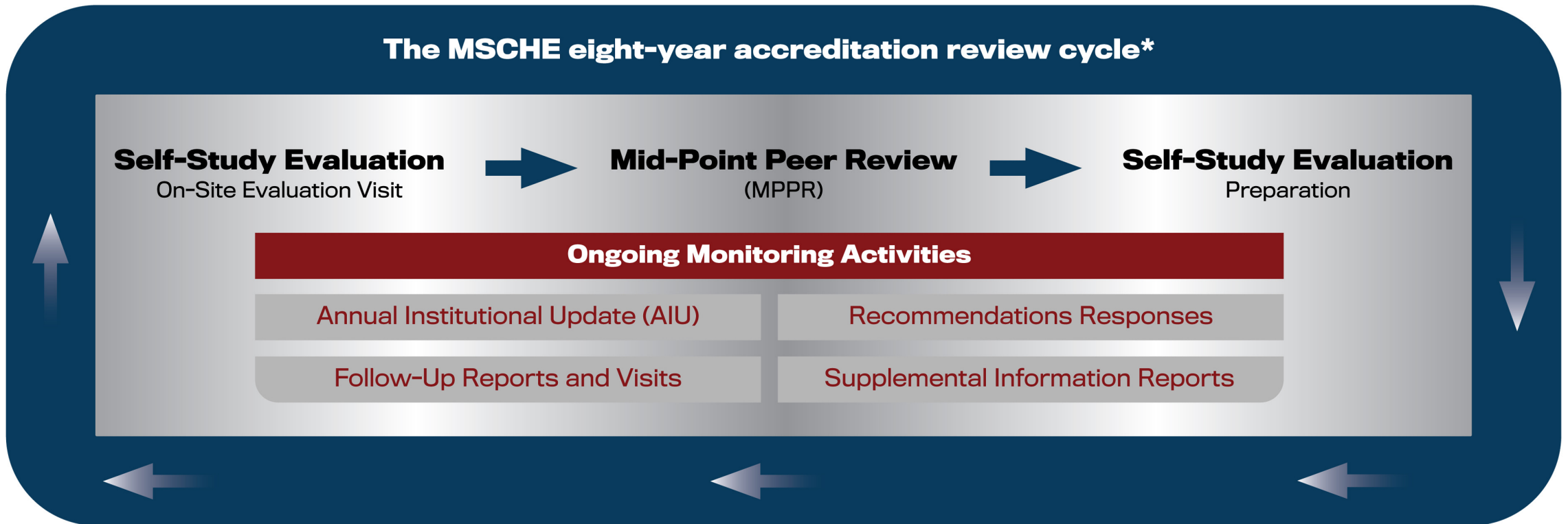




Accreditation Cycle

Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring

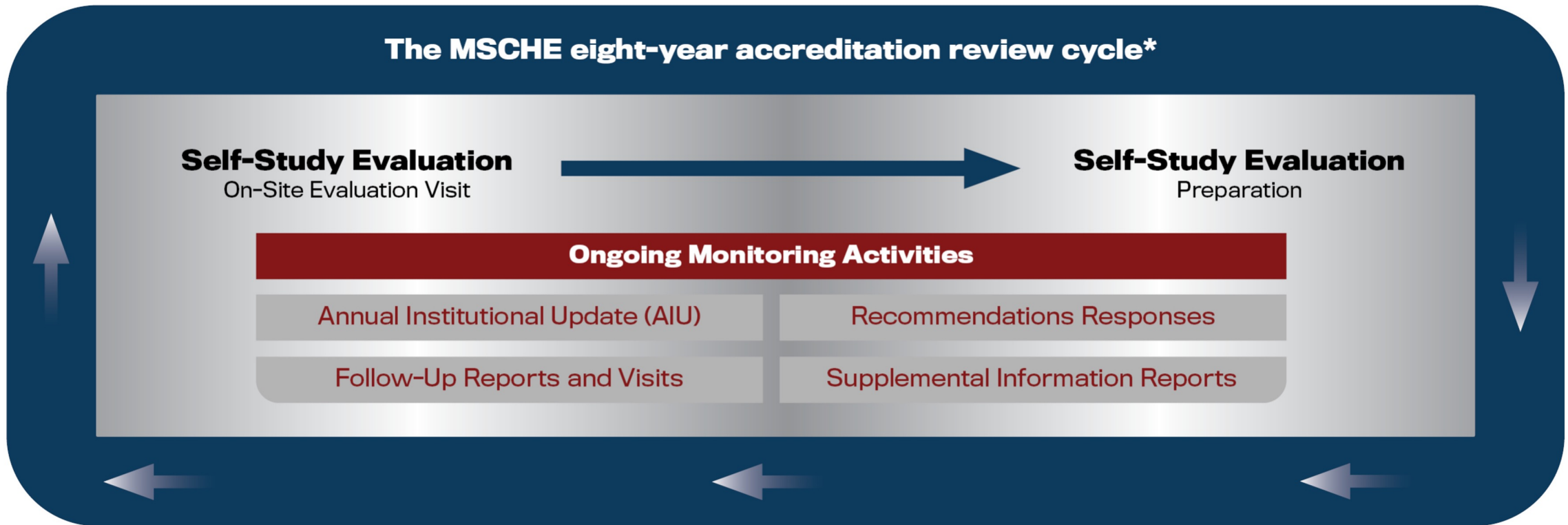
For Institutions Seeking Grant of Accreditation or Reaffirmation



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

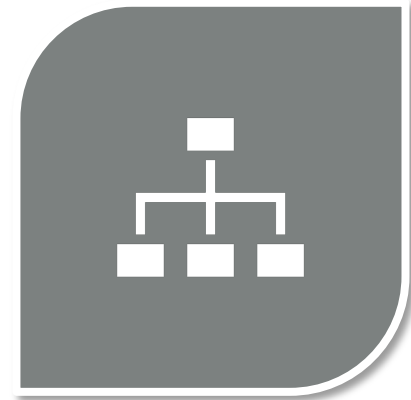
Multi-Level Decision Making



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/>

MSCHE Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

- Policies
- Procedures
- Guidelines
- Templates

The screenshot shows the MSCHE website's navigation and content. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About Us, News, Events, and Contact Us, along with a LOGIN button and a search bar. A secondary navigation bar lists various categories: Institutions, Peer Evaluators, Policies, Standards, Student Resources, Commission Actions, Substantive Change, and Complaints. The main content area features a sidebar with links to POLICIES, BROWSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, POLICIES UNDER REVIEW, and FAQs FOR COVID-RELATED DISTANCE EDUCATION. Below these are three news items under the heading POLICY NEWS, each with a title and date. The main content area has a heading POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES, followed by an introductory paragraph, a photograph of a person writing, and two paragraphs of text explaining the Commission's document types and review process. A contact email policy@msche.org is provided at the bottom.

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.



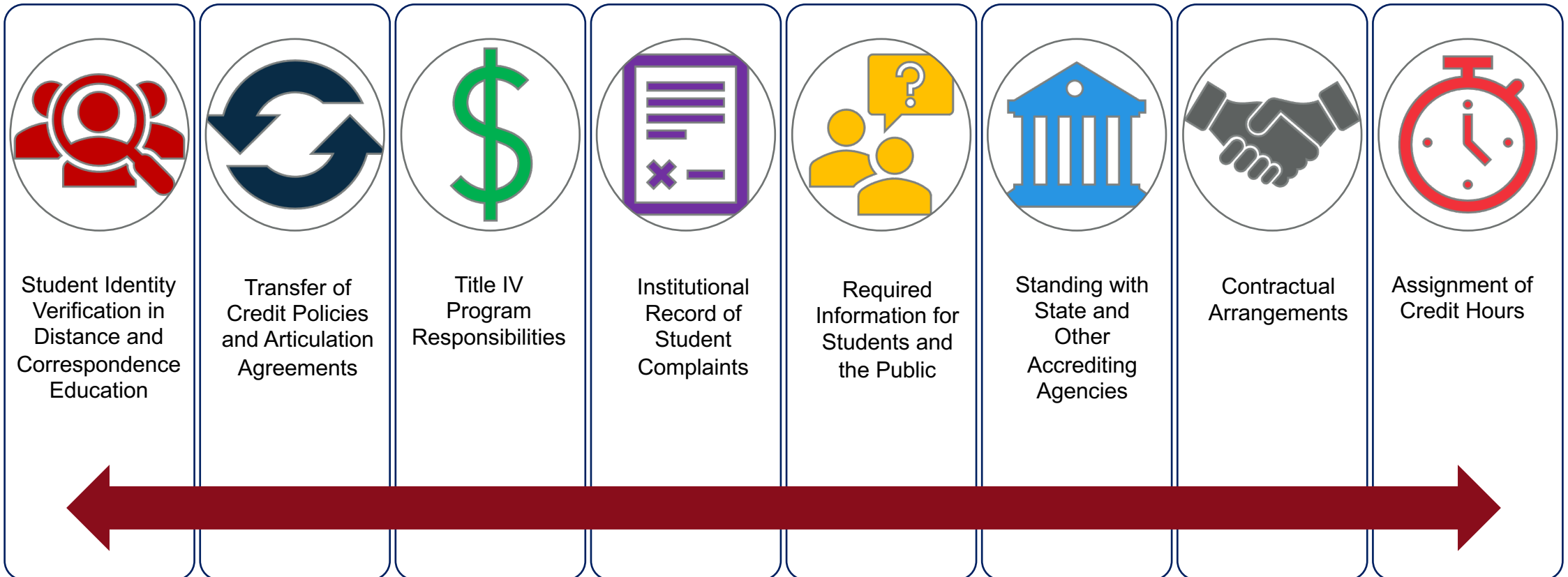
The Commission has the following types of documents: policy statement, accreditation policy, administrative policy, procedures, guidelines, and templates (request forms) which are defined in the policy *Review of Standards, Requirements of Affiliation, and Policies*. In keeping with the Commission's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

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

Compliance with Federal Regulation



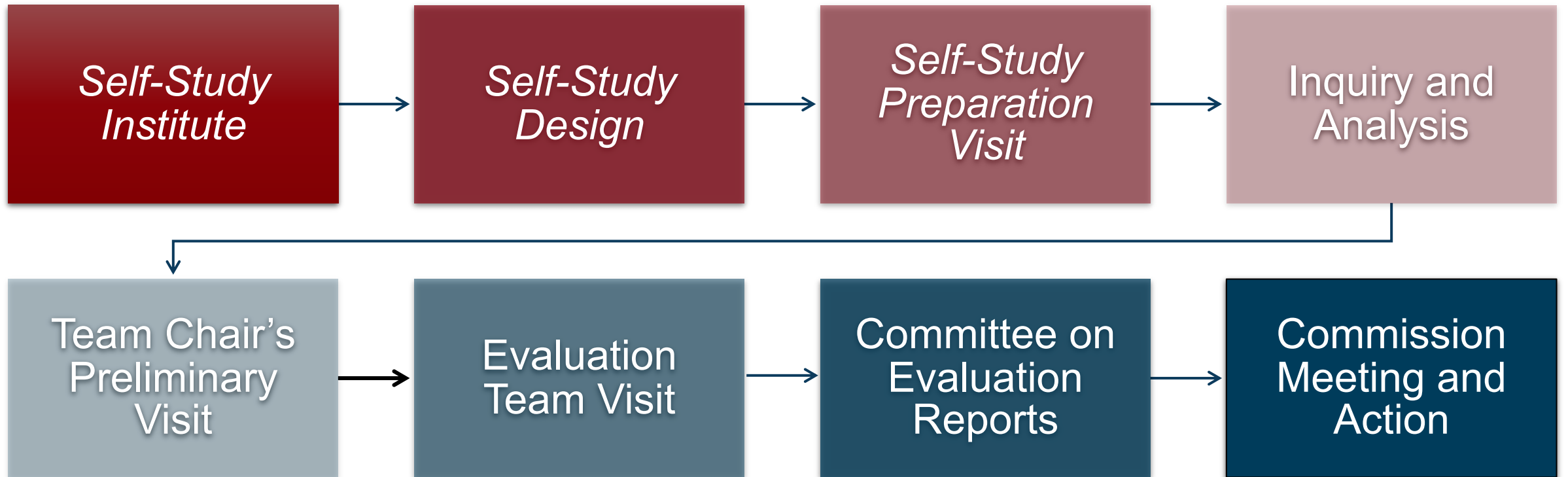
Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations



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

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.

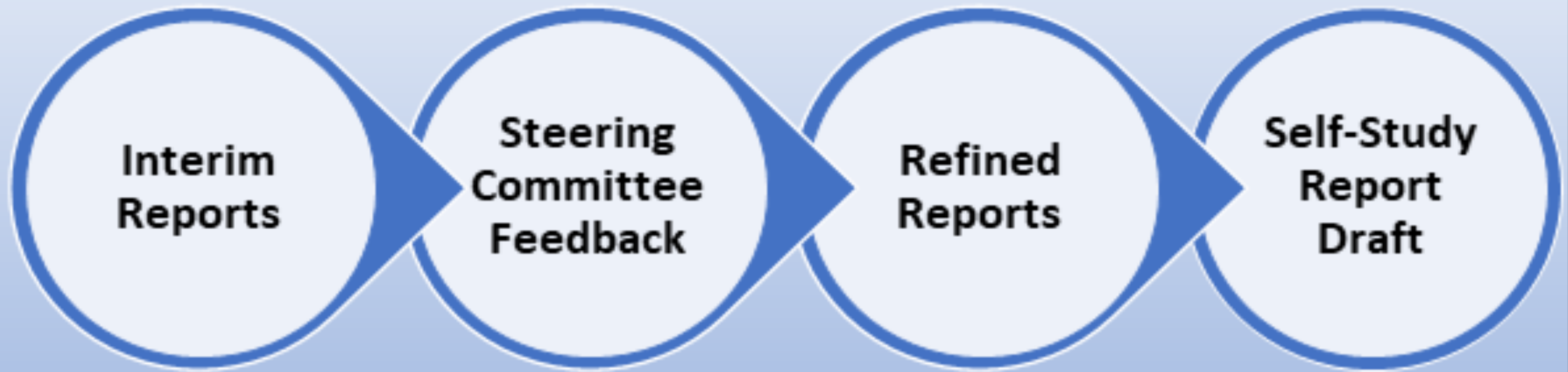
Encourage continuous improvement in the attainment of our institutional Mission and priorities.

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

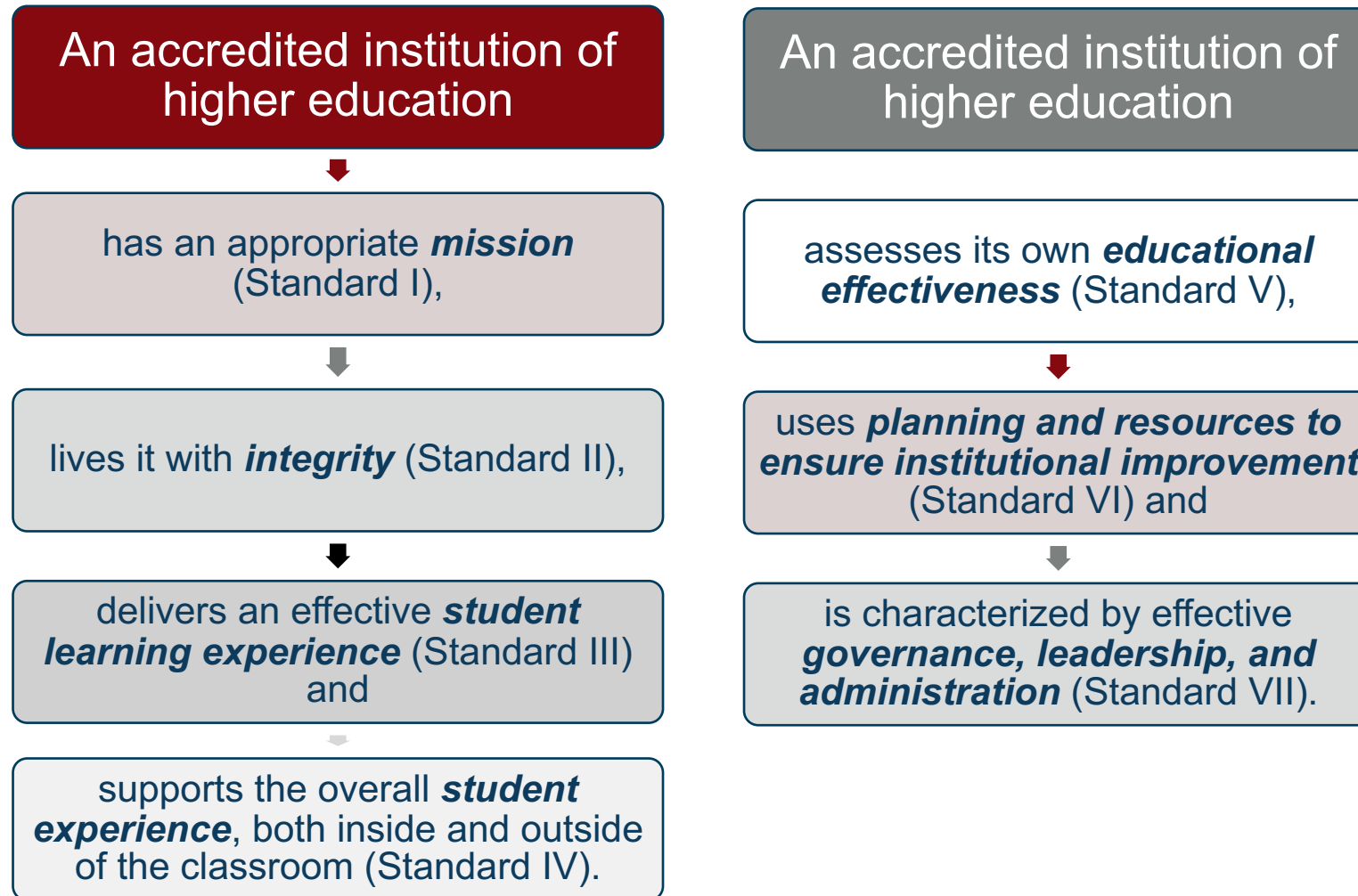
Administration

- 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

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

The MSCHE
website:
www.msche.org



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@mscheorg





THANK YOU

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