CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CENTER

Middle States Reaccreditation Process
WHAT IS MIDDLE STATES?

- The Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- Recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education to conduct accreditation and pre-accreditation activities for institutions of higher education in the mid-Atlantic region
- One of seven such regional accrediting bodies
WHO IS BEING ACCREDITED?

The Graduate School and University Center:

- The Graduate Center
- CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies
- CUNY School of Professional Studies
- Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY
- Macaulay Honors College
- CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy
- CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies
WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

▶ Demonstrate that we meet Middle States standards, the requirements of affiliation and federal compliance standards, and to have our accreditation reaffirmed.

▶ Establish that we have processes in place to ensure continuous assessment and improvement in all areas of our operations—academic and non-academic.

▶ Thoroughly examine academic, student support, and business processes encountered by students and faculty with recommendations for improvement in the student and faculty experience.

▶ Better define the relationship between The Graduate School and University Center schools to identify areas for improvement in the use of shared services and opportunities for collaboration.
WHAT ARE WE REQUIRED TO DO TO MAINTAIN ACCREDITATION?

- Produce a Self-Study
- Undergo a Site Visit
WHAT IS THE SELF-STUDY?

- Overview of The Graduate School and University Center
- A chapter on each standard
- Recommendations for improvements
- An evidence inventory
COMMON PRIORITIES GUIDING THE SELF-STUDY

▶ Innovation in curriculum, research, pedagogy and professional development

▶ Academic and career success of our students

▶ Increasing diversity of students, faculty and curriculum

▶ Increasing funding and diversifying resources

▶ Raising our institutional profile within CUNY and beyond
DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE

DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT TO ONGOING ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT
WHAT IS ACCREDITATION BASED ON?

- Seven standards and 15 requirements of affiliation
- Demonstrate compliance with these standards and requirements
- Engage in ongoing processes of self-review and improvement
STANDARD 1 – MISSION AND GOALS

The institution’s mission defines its purpose within the context of higher education, the students it serves, and what it intends to accomplish. The institution’s stated goals are clearly linked to its mission and specify how the institution fulfills its mission.
An institution must be faithful to its mission, honor its contracts and commitments, adhere to its policies, and represent itself truthfully.
STANDARD III – DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF THE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

An institution provides students with learning experiences that are characterized by rigor and coherence at all program, certificate, and degree levels.
STANDARD IV - SUPPORT OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The institution commits to student retention, persistence, completion, and success through a coherent and effective support system sustained by qualified professionals, which enhances the quality of the learning environment, contributes to the educational experience, and fosters student success.
Assessment of student learning and achievement demonstrates that the institution's students have accomplished educational goals consistent with their program of study, degree level, the institution's mission, and appropriate expectations for institutions of higher education.
STANDARD VI - PLANNING, RESOURCES, AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENT

The institution’s planning processes, resources, and structures are aligned with each other and are sufficient to fulfill its mission and goals.
The institution is governed and administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission and goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, and the other constituencies it serves.
PERIODIC ASSESSMENT OF STANDARDS 1-7 - CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Mission and goals
- Ethics and Integrity
- Effectiveness of programs providing student learning opportunities
- Effectiveness of programs supporting the student experience.
- Effectiveness of assessment processes
- Effectiveness of planning, resource allocation, institutional renewal processes, and availability of resources
- Effectiveness of governance, leadership, and administration
WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE?

- A Steering Committee has been established
- 7 working groups have produced reports for each standard
- The Self-Study design has been approved
- The Self-Study is being written
THE MIDDLE STATES PROCESS TIMELINE

Spring 2019: Self-Study Drafted and Shared with the Entire Graduate School and University Center Community

Summer 2019: Self-Study Revised Based on Community Input

Fall/Winter 2019: Middle States Team Chair Visits

Spring 2020: Final Self Study Submitted
Middle States Team Visit
WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES?

- Affirmation of accreditation
- Further information required through additional reporting
- Warning
- Probation
- Show cause

WHEN WILL WE KNOW?

The MSCHE Commission meets in June 2020
WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit the Middle States Website
http://www.gc.cuny.edu/middlestates

Give feedback on the Self-Study when it’s released to the community this May