Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Reaccreditation Briefing

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- Rutgers University is located in the Middle States region for accreditation, which includes DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, PR, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and several international locations.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey - One University with Three Principal Campuses
We are not a “System”
Purpose of Reaccreditation

• Ensure standards of quality are met

• Encourage a culture of continuous improvement

• Involve Faculty, Students and Staff in institutional planning and evaluation

• Provide accountability to Federal and State educational agencies and the Public
Accreditation Cycle

• First Accreditation – 1921

• Last Reaccreditation – 2008
  – Current 10 year cycle begins

• Periodic Review Report – 2013
  – Mid-point review

• Current Reaccreditation – Spring, 2018

• Next Reaccreditation – 2026
  – Moving to 8 year cycle
How are we Assessed? Middle States Standards include:

I. Mission and Goals

II. Ethics and Integrity

III. Student Learning Experience

IV. Support of the Student Experience

V. Assessment of Educational Effectiveness

VI. Institutional Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Improvement

VII. Governance, Administrative Organization, and Institutional Leadership
Requirements of Affiliation - Align to Standards

The Institution:
1. Is licensed to operate by the State
2. Is currently operational with enrolled students
3. Has had at least one graduating class
4. Communicates with Middle States in English
5. Is compliant with all federal and state policies, regulations, and requirements
6. Is compliant with Middle States, inter-regional, and inter-institutional policies
7. Has a Board-approved Mission Statement and goals that define the institution’s purpose
8. Systematically evaluates its educational and other programs, and makes the results public
9. Has learning programs and opportunities characterized by rigor, coherence, and appropriate assessment
10. Integrates goals for academic and institutional effectiveness and improvement in its planning process
11. Has documented financial resources adequate to support its educational programs
12. Fully discloses its legally constituted governance structure(s)
13. Has a governing body whose members have no personal financial interest in the institution
14. Provides accurate, fair and complete information to Middle States
15. Has a core of appropriate faculty members to assure continuity and coherence of educational programs
Initial Preparations for Self-Study

- July, 2015 – Initial Middle States Self-Study Planning group was convened
- November, 2015 – Rutgers representatives attended Middle States Self-Study Institute; preparation of required documents began
- March, 2016 – Steering Committee was convened; Draft Self-Study Design sent to Middle States
- April, 2016 – Middle States liaison day long site visit
- June, 2016 – Working Groups for each Standard were established
- Sept, 2016 – Middle States Final Approval of Self-Study Design
- Sept, 2017 – Team Chair Preliminary Site Visit
The Reaccreditation Process in 9 Steps

1. A Steering Committee and Working Groups are formed
2. Working Groups draft chapters, combined into a full report
3. MSCHE forms an Evaluation Team
4. The draft is shared with the Team Chair and all of Rutgers
5. FEEDBACK!
6. The Evaluation Team visits Rutgers
7. MSCHE votes on Rutgers’ reaccreditation!
8. Final Report sent to Board of Governors for approval
9. Self-Study Report sent to Evaluation Team

Middle States Reaccreditation
Self-Study Report

• Organized by the 7 Middle States Standards for Accreditation
• Each Standard has multiple Middle States-required Criteria
• Includes an Executive Summary, Introduction, Conclusion, and Appendices
• Includes internal and external links
• Redundancy of topics due to replication in Criteria, and Evaluation Team member focus on particular Standards
• There are items the Standards and Criteria don’t request that are key to Rutgers – research, clinical care, interaction with community, and our impact across the state
Overall Message

• We should celebrate Rutgers’ many recent changes and accomplishments and also be forthright about the challenges that still exist.

• We have made a lot of progress in a short period of time, with many simultaneous demands; we know we still have more to do; we have plans in place to address the remaining challenges.

• The Rutgers community must collectively demonstrate that the institution is fulfilling its mission and delivering quality educational programs and administrative services in an environment of continuing self-assessment and institutional improvement.
Self-Study Report

• Current Draft - https://MiddleStates.Rutgers.edu

• Access with NetID

• Can be viewed through an Internet Browser, or downloaded onto your device.

• Send your feedback to: middlestates2018@Rutgers.edu
Self-Identified Suggestions from Self-Study Report

1. Conduct a full review of the University Strategic Plan to determine the degree to which goals have been achieved and to identify areas that still need to be addressed. *(Standard I)*

2. Adopt a single University Code of Student Conduct across all of Rutgers. *(Standard II)*

3. Assess the effectiveness of the transformational changes to the various administrative and student service systems to ensure that the goals of improved performance and increased analytic capabilities have been met. *(Standards III, IV, and VI)*

4. Complete the work of the various instructional technology committees, including the Working Group on Learning Management Systems, and develop comprehensive implementation plans for transition, orientation, support, and needs for special assistance. *(Standard III)*
Suggestions from Self-Study Report (Continued)

5. Strengthen efforts to collect accurate data regarding the employment and educational outcomes of Rutgers graduates. *(Standard IV)*

6. Renew the University’s commitment to meeting ethical standards with transparency in its student athletic programs. *(Standard IV)*

7. Complete the University-wide assessment of teaching and develop ways of augmenting the Student Instructional Rating System, both for purposes of faculty promotion review and the general improvement of teaching effectiveness. *(Standard V)*

Middle States Reaccreditation Timeline

Sept. 13, 2017 – Evaluation Team Chair, Dr. Eric Barron provided Self-Study Report Draft

Sept. 25, 2017 – Self-Study Report Draft is circulated to the University community

Sept. 27, 2017 – Dr. Barron visits Rutgers University for initial review

Fall 2017 – Self Study Report presentations to University community, soliciting feedback

Jan. 2018 – Self-Study Report submitted to Board of Governors for Approval
Middle States Reaccreditation Timeline (Continued)

Feb. 5, 2018 – Final Self Study Report sent to Evaluation Team

March 19-22, 2018 – Evaluation Team visits RU locations, submits oral report

May 2018 – Evaluation Team submits written report to RU, response permitted

June 2018 – MSCHE takes final action on Rutgers Reaccreditation
What are the Possible Outcomes?

• The Middle States Commission on Higher Education will likely vote on Rutgers’ reaccreditation in June, 2018.

• The Commission’s decisions include several types of action:
  – Affirmation of accreditation
  – Affirmation with required follow-up reports
  – Postponement
  – Noncompliance actions
    • Warning
    • Probation
    • Show Cause why accreditation should not be withdrawn

• We expect to be fully reaccredited by the Commission
What is your role?

- Read the Self-Study Report [https://middlestates.rutgers.edu](https://middlestates.rutgers.edu)
- Review the sections that are most important to you. Is there anything inaccurate or out of date? Did we miss anything? Send us your feedback via middlestates2018@rutgers.edu
- The final Self-Study Report must be presented to the Board of Governors for their approval in January, 2018 and then sent to Middle States and the Evaluation Team by February 5, 2018. So **we need your feedback now**, by early December at the latest.
- Confirm that your own websites do not reference a “Rutgers System.” **If you make major changes to your website, please let us know** by emailing middlestates2018@rutgers.edu. Post the Middle States website link [https://middlestates.rutgers.edu](https://middlestates.rutgers.edu) on appropriate pages of your website.
- Engage with the evaluation team when they visit in Spring 2018; team members may have impromptu conversations with students, faculty, and staff while they are visiting, and we want to be certain **everyone is aware of the visit.**
Middle States Reaccreditation Communication

- Website – [http://middlestates.rutgers.edu](http://middlestates.rutgers.edu)

- For further information on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education – [https://www.msche.org](https://www.msche.org)

- Email – middlestates2018@rutgers.edu
Questions?

Comments?
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