

Middle States- FAQ

Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) is preparing its 10 year self-study report for the Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE or Middle States). This report is critical to the future of SCCC.

The SCCC self-study will scrutinize how well:

- our programs and services accomplish our institutional priorities;
- we fulfill our mission; and
- we meet the MSCHE's standards.

The self-study process began in 2016 and will culminate with an on-site visit of the MSCHE evaluation team in Spring 2019. The evaluation team will be made up of community college peers from outside the state who will review the findings and recommendations of our self-study report. The evaluation team will then make a recommendation to MSCHE on our accreditation status.

What is MSCHE?

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Council on Higher Education recognize MSCHE as one of six regional accreditation authorities. MSCHE accredits institutions in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

MSCHE is "a voluntary, non-governmental association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. It examines each institution as a whole, rather than specific programs within institutions" (www.msche.org).

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the process through which an external agency examines an institution and determines whether it meets established requirements and standards. Institutions participate voluntarily. Accreditation is important for our students because federal student aid is available only to students enrolled in accredited institutions.

What is re-accreditation?

Every ten years MSCHE mandates that its member institutions undergo a rigorous self-study process and write an extensive report on that process. This report is the foundational document for the MSCHE evaluation team's onsite visit.

What is a self-study report?

A self-study report is a comprehensive review of a college's educational programs, institutional policies, and student services. It is conducted by the college. It determines how well a college meets its own mission and strategic goals, as measured against MSCHE's seven standards of accreditation and fifteen requirements of affiliation.

How Does the College Do the Self Study?

The college prepares a Design Document, which is the blueprint for the self-study. The Design Document includes goals for the self-study, questions that guide the research undertaken, documents that need be collected to address this research, institutional priorities, and a timetable for the self-study process.

