

Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

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I. Purpose

The Mid-Atlantic Region Commission on Higher Education (MARCHE), doing business as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE or the Commission), seeks to ensure that institutions are reevaluated and monitored on a regular and consistent basis. The purpose of this policy is to establish the timeline and components of the Commission's accreditation review cycle. Additional information about reviews, reports, and visits can be found in *Accreditation Activities Guidelines*.

II. Statement of Policy

In accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.19*, the Commission shall implement 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 shall assign institutions to an accreditation review cycle which dictates the timeline and a regular and consistent schedule of review. While the Commission has established a continuous accreditation review cycle, the Commission reserves the right to conduct monitoring activities at any time.

A. Accreditation Review Activities

The Commission's eight-year cycle includes a Self-Study Evaluation and On-Site Evaluation visit. The Commission will require an accredited institution to conduct a comprehensive Self-Study Evaluation and On-Site Evaluation Visit at least every eight years.

B. Ongoing Monitoring Activities

The Commission shall monitor member institutions to ensure continued institutional compliance with standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and applicable federal regulatory requirements. Monitoring activities include the Annual Institutional Update (AIU), follow-up reports and visits, and out of cycle monitoring activities. The Commission will require member institutions to submit and verify data and upload required documents on an annual basis through the AIU. The Commission may require institutions to submit further evidence through Recommendations Responses in conjunction with the AIU. The Commission may require institutions to submit follow-up reports or host follow-up visits as directed in the Commission's accreditation action. The Commission may require out of cycle monitoring at any time if it has concerns about the institution's ongoing compliance with the Commission's standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and applicable federal regulatory requirements.

* *The full implementation of the eight-year cycle begins with accredited institutions who will have self-study in 2020-2021.*

C. Changes in Accreditation Review Cycle

The accreditation review cycle is continuous and the institution's assigned cycle cannot be altered except under extraordinary circumstances. Only the Commission may alter the accreditation review cycle as may be necessary based on circumstances.

III. Procedures

The Commission staff will develop procedures as are necessary to ensure the consistent implementation of policies. See *Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Procedures*.

Number:

Version: 2023-07-01 EFFECTIVE

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

Previously Issued: N/A

Approved: Approved by the Commission, June 22, 2023

Revisions: May 24, 2014 (technical amendment); June 3, 2017 (substantive revision); September 1, 2018 (technical amendment); July 1, 2023 (Substantive Revision-remove MPPR);

Related Documents: *Accreditation Activities Guidelines*; *Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Procedures*;

Federal Regulations: §602.18(e) Ensuring consistency in decision-making; §602.19 Monitoring and reevaluation; §602.22 Substantive change