



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Accreditation:

Supporting the Work of Your Institution

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Agenda

- Overview of Accreditation in the US
- Preparing for a Successful Visit – A Case Study
 - ▣ Role of the President and Assistant
 - ▣ Role of the Provost and Assistant
- Supporting your Board, President, & Provost
- Next Steps

Overview of Accreditation in US

- System of peer review among member institutions by volunteer peer evaluators against agreed-upon standards and processes, with respect for institutional mission, for the purposes of quality assurance and continuous improvement.
- Accrediting agencies are non-profit, non-governmental, voluntary membership organizations.

Overview of US Accreditation

□ Types of Accreditation

▣ Seven Regional Accreditors

- Examine entire institution
- Similar standards

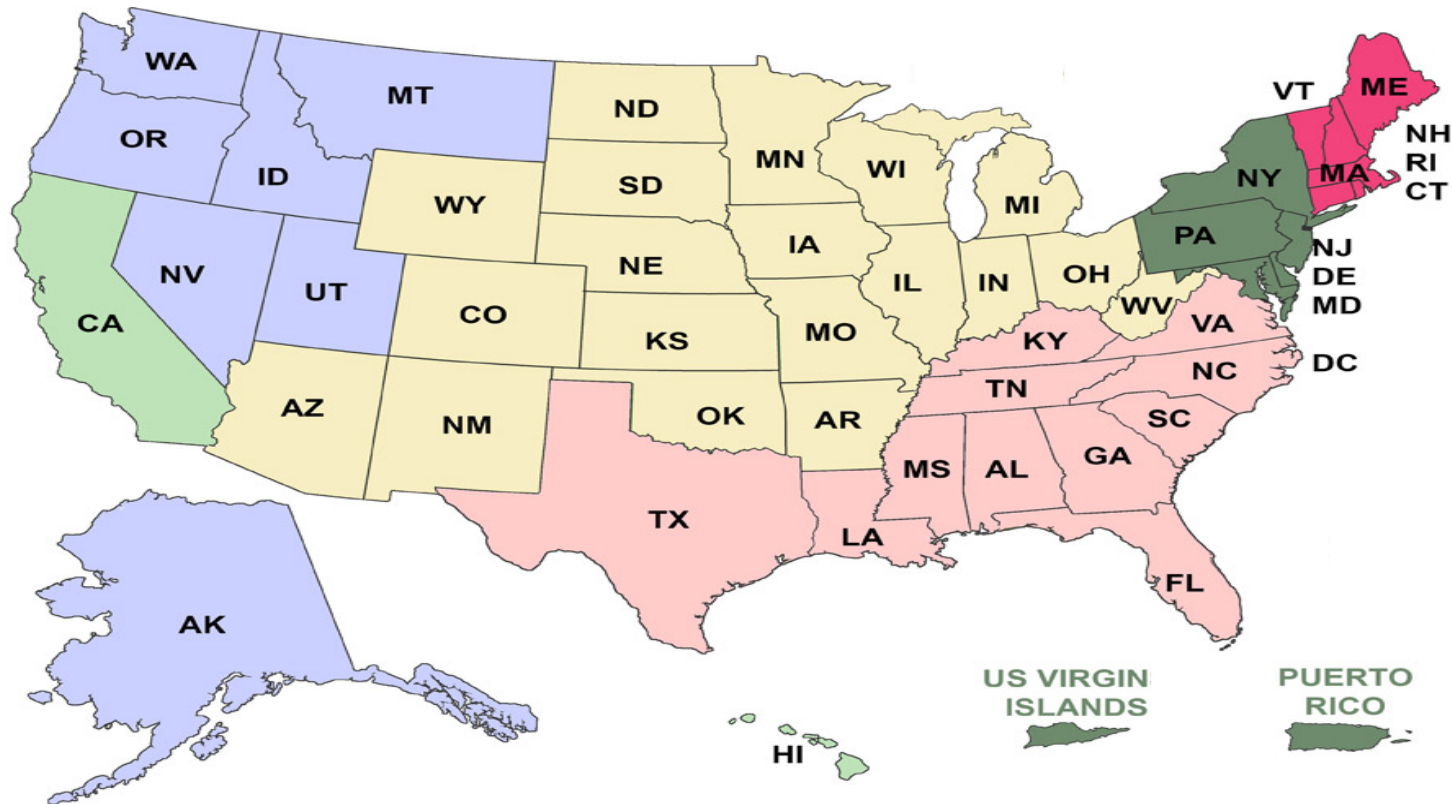
▣ Specialized and Professional Accreditors

- Specific programs

▣ National Accreditors

- Degree-granting & non-degree granting institutions across the U.S.
- Specialized type of institutions, e.g. theological seminaries, career preparation colleges

MAP OF 6 REGIONS OF ACCREDITATION



- MSCHS:** *The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools*
- NEASC:** *The New England Association of Schools and Colleges*
- HLC-NCA:** *The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools*
- NWCCU:** *The Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities*
- SACS:** *The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools*
- WASC:** *The Western Association of Schools and Colleges*

Quality Assurance Mechanisms

Describe the quality assurance mechanisms at your university. Where are you in the review cycle?

Preparing for a Successful Visit

- Mission-centered
- Institutional Commitment
- Expertise
- Resources
- Timeframe
- Responsibility

Case Study: XYZ College

Real life example of what happened to one provost's assistant before, during, and after the course of the accreditation cycle

Role of the President and Assistant

During Self-Study Process

President

- Appoint & Charge Steering Committee
- Meet with Team Chair
- Welcome Team
- Set Tone on Campus
- Respond to Team Report

President's Assistant

- Read, Read, Read
- Handle Logistics
- Assist Steering Committee
- Work with Team Chair (or TCPA)
- Organize Documents

Role of the Provost and Assistant During Self-Study Process

Provost

- ❑ Updating the President about the Self-Study Process
- ❑ Sharing drafts and final version of SS with President
- ❑ Sending finalized Self-Study to MSCHE and Evaluation Team

Provost's Assistant

- ❑ Preparing and mailing appointment letters to Steering Committee (SC)
- ❑ Scheduling of SC meetings and handling related logistics
- ❑ Minutes/tracking SC tasks
- ❑ Ensuring Version Control
- ❑ Assist with compiling appendices
- ❑ Assist with submitting finalized Self-Study

Role of the Provost and Assistant During Team Visit

Provost

- ❑ Acts as point person for team during visit
- ❑ Attends specific meetings while team is on campus
- ❑ Next steps are determined by outcome of SS

Provost's Assistant

- ❑ Assist with scheduling meetings for Team while on campus
- ❑ Scheduling meeting rooms/refreshments
- ❑ Resource Room
- ❑ Prep as if every year is an accreditation event



Transitions and their impact on future accreditation events

What happens after the self-study team has left campus? A cautionary tale...

Tips from other Regionals

If you could provide one or two tips to a president or provost or their respective assistants about preparing for a successful self-study and related team visit, what would it be?

Tips from other Regionals

- Chair of Steering Committee
 - ▣ Time management skills
 - ▣ Authority or support to “prod” and meet deadlines
- Communication
 - ▣ Proactive, regular, and open
- Campus Priorities
 - ▣ Attain reaccreditation AND institutional planning and priorities

Tips from other Regionals

The importance of food -- need I say more?

Supporting the Board

- Governance Standards
 - ▣ Role of the Board in the Bylaws
 - ▣ Regular Board Review
 - ▣ Regular review of the President
 - ▣ Policy Oversight
- Endorsement or Approval of Self-Study Report
- Logistics

Your President or Provost as Team Chair

- Opportunity
- Training
- Support from Accrediting Agency
- Your Role
- Number of Trips
- Working with Team Members

Next Steps

Consider ways to form collegial working relationships with your counterpart(s) to foster a successful self-study

Be aware of what works for your campus culture and modify this approach

Questions?

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