

GCU SELF-STUDY

University Updates on MSCHE Accreditation

Spring 2018

MSCHE Visiting Team Chair

Dr. Christopher Domes, President of Neumann University in Aston PA, has been named as the Chair of the MSCHE Visiting Team. The visiting team will evaluate Georgian Court University on its compliance with the MSCHE Standards of Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. This evaluation includes the reading of the GCU Self-Study, reviewing its documentation of the Standards and Requirements, as well as holding meetings with the various constituents of the university. Dr. Domes will be conducting a pre-visit on campus September 17, 2018 and the visiting team will be on campus March 24-37, 2019. We look forward to these visits and sharing our learnings about the current status of GCU as found through the Self-Study process. The report from the visiting team will be forwarded to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, who then will determine continued accreditation status for the university.

Purpose of a Self-Study

The purpose of the decennial self-study is to achieve re-affirmation of accreditation by showing compliance with the MSCHE Requirements of Affiliation (15) and Standards of Accreditation (7). This is accomplished through the narrative of the institution's Self-Study, a Documentation Roadmap showing compliance with the Seven Standards and their criteria, and documentation of Compliance with Federal Regulations (Title III and Distance Learning). Georgian Court University has been a member of MSCHE since 1922. Additional information on its accreditation status can be found at: [http://www.msche.org/Documents/SAS/244/Statement%20of%20Accreditation%](http://www.msche.org/Documents/SAS/244/Statement%20of%20Accreditation%20)

“The Commission is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources.”

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

<http://msche.org/>



GCU Celebration of Learning 2018

In This Issue

- MSCHE Visiting Team Chair
- Key Highlights of the GCU Self-Study
- Connections to the GCU Strategic Compass
- Survey Says...
- Highlights since 2009



Agape Latte 2018

Key Highlights of the GCU Self-Study

Beginning in Fall 2016, the GCU Steering Committee for MSCHE Reaffirmation of Accreditation has been gathering documentation related to GCU's compliance with the seven Standards of Accreditation. This documentation served as the backbone of the Self-Study. GCU's Self-Study is organized into seven chapters, one chapter per standard.

In Chapter 1, Mission and Goals, GCU showed how its Mission and Mercy Core Values underpin all of the university's efforts, including its most recent strategic planning process. The 2018 Strategic Compass' four points of emphasis each begin with the phrase "Mission fulfillment through...". In addition, Chapter 2, Ethics and Integrity, was also found to permeate the Strategic Compass. Mission was also the key driver of the Bridge General Education Program, initiated in Fall 2016.

Chapters 3-5, Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience, Support of the Student Experience, and Educational Effectiveness Assessment, considered GCU's main purpose of providing post-secondary education in the Catholic, Mercy tradition. The documentation of these chapters highlighted the various programs that support students meeting their degree completion goals, within the Mercy values of Justice, Integrity, Compassion, Service, and Respect. Key are the programs related to satisfactory academic progress and meeting the needs of under-resourced students.

Chapters 6-7, Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement, as well as Governance, Leadership, and Administration, considered the functional areas of the university's structures to support its learning mission. The organization of the university and its effectiveness in providing services was considered in detail. The university's resources and program for continuous improvement were outlined in these chapters.

GCU Mission Assessment

As a member of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE), Georgian Court University will also be conducting a Peer Review process using the Catholic, Mercy Mission Accountability Process parallel to the MSCHE Self-Study process. The findings and recommendations from the GCU Self-Study and Standard I: Mission and Goals will inform this report.

This assessment process will also have a team of visitors coming to the GCU campus in Spring 2019. The campus looks forward to welcoming this team shortly after its MSCHE reaffirmation of accreditation visit.



Student-Faculty Research 2018

Survey Says ...

Evidence of meeting the requirements of the MSCHE Standards is found in survey feedback and results. During the academic year 2017-2018 GCU conducted the following surveys of student engagement and satisfaction.

Ruffalo Noel Levitz College Student Inventory (CSI), Mid-Year Student Assessment (MYSA), and Second Year Student Assessment (SYSA) to all incoming first year and transfer students. (479 responses)

Ruffalo Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) to all undergraduates. (261 responses)

SIR II: Student Instructional Report II. Selected courses, all semesters.

Graduate Exit Survey: 353 participants.

THE Survey (Times Higher Education U.S. Student Survey. (50 students selected)

In addition, many programs and units of the university conducted surveys for student satisfaction and evaluation of services. The data from these surveys are used for specific program improvement, and are part of unit assessments.



Business to Student Connector 2018

Connections to the 2018 GCU Strategic Compass

The institution's Self-Study is the opportunity to tell its unique story, albeit aligned with demonstration of how the institution meets the Standards of Accreditation. To that end, each institution is to define its strategic initiatives and include these initiatives within its Self-Study. For GCU, its strategic initiatives are its recently defined Strategic Compass Points of Emphasis.

During the academic year 2017-2018, GCU developed its Strategic Compass with various tactics and a dashboard of key performance indicators. This was an iterative process involving many of GCU's constituents. The compass points and tactics have been aligned with the Unit Assessment Goals and Plans submitted by all areas of the university. The GCU Strategic Compass emphasizes the student experience in all its forms and aspects.

The 2018 GCU Strategic Compass Points of Emphasis include:

- Mission Fulfillment through Academic Excellence
- Mission Fulfillment through an Exceptional Student Experience
- Mission Fulfillment through Revenue Generation and Diversification
- Mission Fulfillment through Operational Efficiency and Resource Utilization

GCU Highlights since the 2009 Self-Study

The introduction of the GCU Self-Study notes some of the major events since its 2009 decennial Self-Study and the subsequent 2014 Periodic Review Report (PRR) to MSCHE. The following are the key happenings at the Court since 2014:

Dr. Marbach inaugurated President in 2015

Implementation of co-education for day undergraduate program in 2013

Bridge General Education Program implementation in 2016

Recipient of the NJ 2012 Building our Futures Bond Act for on campus renovations

New and developing academic programs: Partnership with New Seminary (2014), MA in Criminal Justice and Human Rights, MA in Applied Behavior Analysis, BA in Latino Business Studies, BA in Digital Design, BFA in Graphic Design and Multimedia, BS Finance, BS Management, BS Marketing.

Satellite Locations: GCU@Hazlet, GCU@Cumberland,

GCU named as a *College of Distinction* in 2017

Contact Us

The GCU MSCHE Self-Study is under the direction of the GCU Office of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation.

Georgian Court University

900 Lakewood Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701-2697

(732) 987-2234

gcuassessment@georgian.edu

Visit us on the web at
www.georgian.edu/assessment-of-student-learning

Georgian Court University—The Mercy University of New Jersey

