

## Visiting Team Chair Pre-Visit

Dr. Christopher Domes, president of Neumann University in Aston, Pennsylvania and chair of the MSCHE Visiting Team, came to the GCU campus on October 17. The full MSCHE visiting team will be on campus March 24–27, 2019. The intent of the preliminary visit was to judge GCU’s readiness for the full visit and the work done on the self-study to date by the campus community.

While at GCU, Dr. Domes met with President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.; Steering Committee Co-Chairs Timothy Briles, Ed.D., and Janet Thiel, OSF, Ph.D.; and various other constituents. President Marbach was excited to share not only the self-study but also the very recent publication of GCU’s [Strategic Compass](#). The visit concluded with meeting the full Steering Committee and a trip to GCU@Hazlet. Dr. Domes left GCU with some helpful insights on our self-study and subsequent Strategic Compass synergy.

We look forward to the decennial visit and sharing what we learned about the current status of GCU from the self-study and Strategic Compass processes. The report from the visiting team about our reaffirmation of accreditation 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 reaffirmation of accreditation by showing compliance with the [MSCHE Requirements of Affiliation \(15\) and Standards of Accreditation \(7\)](#). This is accomplished through 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 our accreditation status can be found at: <http://www.msche.org/>

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*“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/>

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### In This Issue

- Pre-Visit by MSCHE Visiting Team Chair
- Self-Study and Strategic Compass Synergy
- Survey Says...
- Highlights Since the 2009 Self-Study

## GCU Mission Assessment

As a member of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE), Georgian Court University will also be conducting a peer review 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.

The campus looks forward to welcoming the CMHE visiting team, chaired by President Thomas Botzman of Misericordia University. This visit will occur April 3–5, 2019.

## Creating Synergy Between the Self-Study and the Strategic Compass

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. At the same time, GCU embarked on a Strategic Planning process built on the model of a Strategic Compass as developed by Dr. Jeffrey Buller of Florida Atlantic University. The self-study is developed into seven chapters, mirroring the seven standards.

In **Chapter 1: Mission and Goals**, GCU shows how its mission and Mercy core values are pervasive throughout the university. The Court celebrates its Mercy heritage through observance of Mercy Week and Critical Concerns Week. The mission of GCU underpins the recent Strategic Compass, as all compass goals begin with “Mission Fulfillment Through. . . .” **Chapter 2: Ethics and Integrity** shows evidence of ethics and integrity across the university. Beginning with a campus-wide visioning process, the university is realistic about its capacity and current state. This is further detailed within the Strategic Compass, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 12, 2018.

**Chapters 3–5**, Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience, Support of the Student Experience, and Educational Effectiveness Assessment, consider GCU’s main purpose of providing postsecondary education in the Catholic, Mercy tradition. The documentation of these chapters highlights the various programs that support students meeting their degree-completion goals within the Mercy core values of justice, integrity, compassion, service, and respect. The findings of these chapters are reflected in Goals 1 and 2 of the Strategic Compass: Mission Fulfillment Through Academic Excellence and Mission Fulfillment Through an Exceptional Student Experience.



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## Survey Says...

Evidence of meeting the requirements of the MSCHE Standards is found in survey feedback and results. During the 2018–2019 academic year, GCU will conduct the following surveys:

- 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. CSI and SYSA are completed during Orientation. MYSA occurs in January at the beginning of the term.
- NSSE 2019: Survey will be distributed to first-year and senior students in February 2019.
- Student Instructional Report II (SIR II): Selected courses, all semesters.
- Graduate Exit Survey: Distributed in May.
- Times Higher Education U.S. Student Survey (THE Survey). Distributed in November 2018.

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.

## Creating Synergy Between the Self-Study and the Strategic Compass

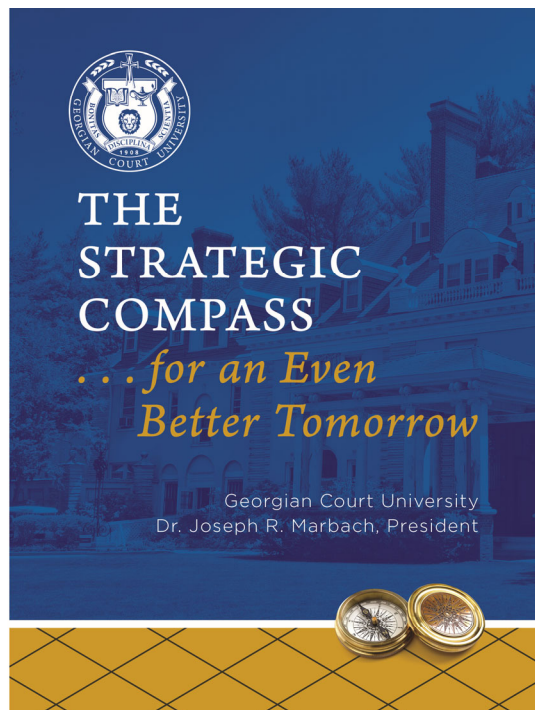
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**Chapter 6:** Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement, and **Chapter 7:** Governance, Leadership, and Administration, consider the functional areas of the university's structures and how they support its learning mission. The organization of the university and its effectiveness in providing services are discussed in detail. The university's resources and program for continuous improvement are outlined in these chapters. The data from this part of the self-study informed the development the remaining two goals of the Strategic Compass. Mission Fulfillment Through Revenue Generation and Diversification as well as Mission Fulfillment Through Operational Efficiency and Resource Utilization capture many of the elements of the self-recommendations based on the self-study.

An 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, our strategic initiatives are our recently defined Strategic Compass Goals and Points of Emphasis.

Visit <http://georgian.edu/wp-content/uploads/MSCHE-Reaffirmation-of-Accreditation.pdf> to see GCU's current Self-Study for MSCHE Reaffirmation of Accreditation.

Visit <http://georgian.edu/wp-content/uploads/The-GCU-Strategic-Compass.pdf> to see GCU's Strategic Compass.





## GCU Highlights Since the 2009 Self-Study

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

**2013:** Implemented full coeducation for day undergraduate program, adding men's athletic teams and housing for men

**2014–2016:** Completed nearly \$8.5 million in campus improvements funded by New Jersey's Building Our Future Bond Program

**2015:** Inaugurated Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., as GCU's ninth president

**2014–present:** Developed new and expanded academic programs: partnership with New Seminary, M.A. in Criminal Justice and Human Rights, B.S. in Finance, B.S. in Management, B.S. in Marketing, B.S. in Health Sciences, and B.A. in Health Profession Studies

**2016:** Implemented Bridge General Education Program

**2016:** Received a Title III federal grant worth \$1.99 million, distributed over five years, that supports the Chart the Course to Graduation program

**2016–2017:** Launched GCU@Hazlet and GCU@Cumberland satellite locations and partnered with K–12 Alliance (KTA) at off-site locations throughout New Jersey

**2017:** Named a New Jersey College of Distinction, Catholic College of Distinction, and College of Distinction in Business, Education, and Nursing; ranked #39 on *Washington Monthly's* list of Best Bang for the Buck schools; and became a Strive for College partner, demonstrating a commitment to enrolling and graduating low-income and first-generation college students

**2018:** Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* among its Best Regional Colleges/Universities (North)

## Contact Us

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

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