

MSCHE Pre-Visit

On April 18, 2017, Sean McKittrick, Ph.D., the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) vice president assigned to Georgian Court University, made a site visit to review the campus's preparation for developing its decennial Self-Study. While on campus, Dr. McKittrick met with President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.; the President's Cabinet; faculty; trustees; the GCU MSCHE Steering Committee; selected student leaders; and the Steering Committee co-chairs, Timothy Briles, Ed.D., and Janet Thiel, OSF, Ph.D. At the end of the visit, Dr. McKittrick affirmed GCU's preparation and approved the Design for Self-Study.

Purpose of a Self-Study

The purpose of the 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%20Status.htm>

"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."

—MSCHE
<http://msche.org/>

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GCU Mission Is Key!

In his visit to the campus on April 18, Dr. Sean McKittrick emphasized the importance and central role of mission in the self-evaluation of any institution. The clear alignment of GCU's mission to the Strategic Compass was key evidence of its centrality at Georgian Court University.

As a member of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE), GCU will also be conducting a peer review process using the Catholic, Mercy Mission Accountability Process parallel to the MSCHE Self-Study process. Its findings and recommendations will inform Standard I: Mission and Goals.



Meet Your MSCHE Self-Study Steering Committee

Early in Fall 2016, President Marbach invited members of the GCU community to serve on the MSCHE Steering Committee. He appointed Dr. Timothy Briles and Sister Janet Thiel to serve as co-chairs. Having recently come to Georgian Court from Neumann University, Sister Janet was very familiar with the self-study process; she just guided the Neumann community toward successful re-affirmation of accreditation in 2016. Dr. Briles, as special assistant to the president, is also directing the Strategic Compass planning process for GCU. The committee has been meeting regularly since November 2016.

Committee Members

The work to review the requirements of the seven Standards for Accreditation is tasked to the 14 members of the Steering Committee. Assignments are as follows:

Standard I: Mission & Goals	Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., '74 Barbara Williams, RSM, '63
Standard II: Ethics & Integrity	Jo Ann F. Cummings, Ph.D. Gail H. Towns
Standard III: Design & Delivery of the Student Learning Experience	William J. Behre, Ph.D. Nancy Sardone, Ph.D.
Standard IV: Support of the Student Experience	Colleen Diveny Susan E. O. Field, Ph.D.
Standard V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment	Michael F. Gross, Ph.D. Parvathi S. Murthy
Standard VI: Planning, Resources & Institutional Improvement	Cathleen M. McQuillen, D.P.S. John Sommer, CPA
Standard VII: Governance, Leadership & Administration	Russell McDonald, Ph.D. Janice Warner, Ph.D.

Survey Says...

Evidence of meeting the requirements of the MSCHE Standards is found in survey feedback and results. During the spring term, GCU conducted the following surveys of student engagement and satisfaction.

NSSE 2017 (National Survey of Student Engagement). First-year and senior students.
252 participants.

GCU Student Satisfaction:
All students.
521 participants.

SIR II (Student Instructional Report II). Selected courses.
Fall 2016: 374 courses.

Graduate Exit Survey.
348 participants.

THE Survey (Times Higher Education U.S. Student Survey).

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.

NSSE 2017 and THE Survey data will be available in the late summer or early fall.



Components of the Self-Study

GCU's self-study is an opportunity to tell our unique story, albeit aligned with demonstration of how the institution meets the Standards of Accreditation. To that end, GCU will define strategic initiatives and include these initiatives within the self-study. GCU's strategic initiatives are our recently defined Strategic Compass Points. These points will be intertwined with the evidence of how GCU uniquely meets the Standards of Accreditation, the evidence of areas where GCU needs to continue to strengthen processes, and opportunities for improvement. However, the narrative self-study is not the whole story of the self-study process.

Evidence of compliance with the Seven Standards of Accreditation is found within the Documentation Roadmap. Here, the university shows directly how it meets each criterion of each standard. The Documentation Roadmap contains multiple documents giving evidence of compliance. These documents are stored electronically on the GCU Portal, on a site specifically designed for the self-study process. In the past, this library of documents often filled an entire classroom!

MSCHE Self-Study and Strategic Compass Synergy

Completing the self-study and creating the Strategic Compass at the same time signals a great challenge—and opportunity—for GCU. Both efforts must reflect synergy and mission alignment, and committees are guided by the following alignment, even as work continues and additional input is gathered across campus. These Compass Points and the university’s action plan will play a key role in the self-study.

GCU Compass Point	GCU Mission Alignment Standard I. Mission and Goals	MSCHE Standard Alignment
C1. Intellectual Experiences	<i>Comprehensive liberal arts education in the Roman Catholic tradition</i> <i>A curriculum broad enough to be truly liberal, yet specialized enough to support further study and future careers</i>	Standard III. Design & Delivery of the Student Learning Experience Standard V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment
C2. Social, Cultural & Athletic Engagement	<i>Dynamic community</i> <i>An environment for the entire university community to grow through shared educational, cultural, social, and spiritual experiences</i>	Standard IV. Support of the Student Learning Experience
C3. Emotional, Spiritual & Physical Wellness	<i>Committed to the core values of respect, integrity, justice, compassion, and service</i> <i>The will to translate concern for social justice into action</i> <i>Special concern for women</i>	Standard IV. Support of the Student Learning Experience
C4. Physical & Virtual Environment	<i>An environment for the entire university community to grow through shared educational, cultural, social, and spiritual experiences</i>	Standard VI. Planning, Resources & Institutional Improvement
C5. University Administrative Processes	<i>Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy; committed to the core values of respect, integrity, justice, compassion, and service</i>	Standard VII. Governance, Leadership & Administration Standard II: Ethics & Integrity

Contact Us

Our shared efforts toward reaffirmation of accreditation is led by the GCU Office of Assessment. Learn more about assessment at GCU and explore additional resources at:

georgian.edu/assessment

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