

MARIST



REACCREDITATION SITE VISIT GUIDE

2023

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



Thank you for being part of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaccreditation review process. Your contributions help Marist deliver a high-quality, mission-driven educational experience for students.

Reaccreditation provides an important, **evidence-based assessment** of Marist College based on the expectations set out by our accreditor. The external review team's site visit is also an opportunity for us to engage in a peer review process with colleagues from other colleges and universities, **showcasing what is distinctive** about Marist while also learning from their expertise.

What is MSCHE Reaccreditation?

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaccreditation is a self-assessment process used by colleges and universities to assure institutional quality and encourage continuous improvement. MSCHE oversees our reaccreditation and provides an important, evidence-based assessment of Marist College which is the quality educational experience we're providing our students.

It is our job to demonstrate we meet the established quality standards used by MSCHE to evaluate institutions. Achieving reaccreditation allows MSCHE to affirm for the federal government Marist's continued eligibility to award federal financial aid to students—and vital for the College to remain open.

In order to earn reaccreditation, Marist must demonstrate through the self-study report and supporting evidence that we have met seven Standards, 15 Requirements of Affiliation, and a Verification of Compliance with government (federal and state) laws and regulations.

The External Evaluation Process

One of the final steps of the reaccreditation process is the site visit when professionals from peer institutions visit our campus. The goal of their visit is to confirm and clarify what we noted in our self-study and to follow up on any questions they may have regarding the information covered in the self-study.

Following their site visits to Albany, Florence, and Poughkeepsie, the MSCHE external review team will make a final recommendation that will inform the Commission's assessment and determination of our continued accreditation status.

KEY DATES

MARCH 1	MSCHE reviewer visits Florence campus
MARCH 2	MSCHE reviewer continues visit to Florence campus
MARCH 6	MSCHE reviewer visits Albany
MARCH 19	MSCHE visiting team arrives at Poughkeepsie campus; evening reception
MARCH 20	Concurrent meetings on campus
MARCH 21	Follow-up meetings on campus
MARCH 22	Oral summary of visiting team's findings to the campus community; team departure

Reaccreditation is a Two-Step Process

MSCHE reaccreditation is a two-step process: (1) assessing our performance against quality standards, and (2) a self-study examination of institutional priorities.



SEVEN STANDARDS

MSCHE assesses Marist's performance on seven standards used to consistently evaluate their member institutions. Fifteen Requirements of Affiliation are also infused throughout the standards.

- **Standard I:** Mission and Goals
- **Standard II:** Ethics and Integrity
- **Standard III:** Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience
- **Standard IV:** Support of the Student Learning Experience
- **Standard V:** Educational Effectiveness Assessment
- **Standard VI:** Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement
- **Standard VII:** Governance, Leadership, and Administration



SELF-STUDY

The standards-based self-study is complemented by an examination of key areas of importance for the College through the Institutional Priorities. Following broad input from the campus community, three priorities were identified for careful investigation. These Institutional Priorities are woven throughout the self-study document, as well as in a stand-alone priorities chapter.

Institutional Priorities

- Investigate opportunities to enhance and expand high-impact practices to increase student engagement and success.
- Explore ways to strengthen and sustain a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.
- Research the College's adaptive business model to prepare for changing conditions and to ensure long-term stability and vitality.



Marist Mission and Values

“Marist College is dedicated to helping students develop the intellect, character, and skills required for enlightened, ethical, and productive lives in the global community of the 21st century.”

Values

- **Excellence in Education**—Marist achieves its ideal of excellence in undergraduate, graduate, and professional education by actively engaging each student through exemplary teaching and distinctive learning opportunities.
- **A Sense of Community**—Seeking to create relationships that will last a lifetime, we nurture the well-being and development of all our community members and cultivate their bonds with the College and each other.
- **Commitment to Service**—The Marist ideal of service is predicated on our belief in the dignity and value of every human being. The College supports programs to meet a wide variety of community needs and to offer broader access to education.

Institutional Priorities

Marist's Institutional Priorities are key areas of importance for the College during the past review period and moving into the future. A close investigation into these priorities during the self-study process ensures that the process is reflective, informative, and valuable.

INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITY	NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS	WHERE WE SEE FUTURE GROWTH
<p>Priority 1: Enhance and Expand High-Impact Practices (HIPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Infused HIPs throughout the Core/Liberal Studies program■ Expanded an already robust undergraduate research program for students■ Increased internship opportunities for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Institutionalize protocols and support for faculty engaging in HIPs■ Increase funding and logistical support for students wanting to pursue HIPs■ Expand existing Centers of Excellence to create greater interdisciplinary learning opportunities
<p>Priority 2: Strengthen and Sustain a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Community (DEI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Created new Vice President of DEI position since the last review■ Actively recruited and retained students from various backgrounds and geographic locations■ Actively recruited and retained faculty from various backgrounds and geographic locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Establish clear assessment practices and measurable targets for DEI■ Continue to build out an appropriate infrastructure for DEI over time■ Encourage open dialogue among all stakeholders across the College community

INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITY

Priority 3:
Research the College's Adaptive Business Model

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Diversified and expanded academic programs, particularly in the areas of fully online programs, dual degree programs, and graduate and certificate programs
- Led the campus community through the pandemic with a variety of innovative methods and expanded Center for Teaching Excellence and Digital Education training and resources

WHERE WE SEE FUTURE GROWTH

- Encourage broader stakeholder involvement in institutional innovations and systemic evaluation of all areas of the College as part of continuous improvement
- Continue exploring additional innovations and expansions in fully online programs, dual degrees, and graduate and certificate options



Progress Since Our Last Reaccreditation

Marist underwent its last reaccreditation review by MSCHE in 2013. Our current self-study shows that we continue to make significant progress and performance improvements in each of the seven standards MSCHE uses to evaluate its member institutions.

STANDARD	NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS
Standard I: Mission and Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Addition of skills to the mission statement■ Implementation of the 2018–2023 Strategic Plan focused on student success, innovation, and the social good■ Continued investments in DEI initiatives
Standard II: Ethics and Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Introduction of new Title IX Coordinator role and required annual Title IX training■ Creation of Marist Ally Network and Athletics IDEA Committee■ Substantial revision of copyright use and compliance and academic integrity
Standard III: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Adaptivity during the pandemic to maintain safe and effective in-person learning■ Addition of new graduate degree programs in the Health Sciences, embedded HIPs in the Core/Liberal Studies program, and expanded Centers for Excellence■ Expansion of short-term, semester, and year-long study abroad programs—Marist ranked #1 academic year study abroad program in the U.S.

STANDARD

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Standard IV:
Support of the Student
Learning Experience

- Expanded hiring of faculty and staff—in 2021 Marist announced a multi-year effort to fill 36 vacant positions across the College
- Expanded orientation, first year programs, and living-learning communities
- Creation of a new Counseling Center position focused on the needs of students of color

Standard V:
Educational Effectiveness
Assessment

- Use of assessment results for program improvement, resulting in innovations such as revised and calibrated rubrics, competency identification, and internship skill development
- Introduction of a Director of Academic Affairs and Assessment
- Improved ranking by U.S. News to #5 best academic reputation in the region

Standard VI:
Planning, Resources, and
Institutional Improvement

- Creation of a new joint faculty and administrative Priorities and Resources Committee
- Broader communication of budget processes to the campus community

Standard VII:
Governance, Leadership,
and Administration

- Strong policy development and decision-making during the pandemic, revealing an adaptive and resilient system
- Self-assessment of Board of Trustees bylaws and reconfiguration of Board composition, officer, and committee structure

Preparing For the Site Visit

Every member of the campus community should be prepared for the MSCHE site visit and to speak with the evaluation team, as the team determines who they would like to speak with and requests specific meetings. They may even request additional meetings while on site in Florence, Albany, and Poughkeepsie.

Key Questions to Consider

- How does your area uphold the mission and values of Marist College?
- How does your area advance institutional priorities?
- What are some notable developments in your area since the last MSCHE site visit?
 - Think of examples of recent initiatives, how they've been implemented, and what you may envision as future directions.
- How do you assess your own practices?
 - How do you use evidence to continuously improve your work and your unit's effectiveness?

Tips for a Good Meeting

The MSCHE external review team visiting campus is equally interested in our success!

- When answering questions, be concise, be honest, and share examples of our strengths and areas for development.
- If you don't know an answer, it's ok! We can figure out who else may have the information.
- Be flexible. Meetings may wrap up early or require additional time. It all depends on whether the review team gathers the information they feel they need for their assessment.
- If you're asked to gather more evidence, please send it to Michelle Stokes at michelle.stokes@marist.edu and indicate which team member requested the documentation.

Resources to Help You Prepare for Your Meetings

- **Marist's Self-Study**—the Executive Summary provides a great overview of the key learnings that resulted from the extensive investigative process.
marist.edu/middle-states/review
- **Frequently Asked Questions**—addresses the most common questions and answers people have about reaccreditation and meeting with the site visit team.
marist.edu/middle-states/faq
- **Marist's MSCHE Website**—All our communications and materials related to the MSCHE review are available on a single website to make it easy for our community to access the information they need to feel prepared for the site visit.
marist.edu/middle-states



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