Quick Guide to the Middle States Reaccreditation Self Study 2012

What is reaccreditation?
A two-part evaluation of the College that occurs every 10 years, reaccreditation determines how well Brockport meets its Mission and the standards defined by the Middle States Commission on Higher Ed. (MSCHE). Part one is a self-study conducted by members of the campus community. Part two is a peer review conducted by MSCHE evaluation team who will visit campus on April 1-4, 2012.

Who created the self study?
In 2010 a steering committee was appointed by the President to oversee the self study. Seven subcommittees were then formed to research and evaluate each of the 14 MSCHE standards. Members of the subcommittees came from all areas of the College and included faculty, staff and students.

How was the study accomplished?
The subcommittees reviewed a wide range of official documents, including student learning outcomes, budgets, annual reports and new planning initiatives. Despite funding cuts Brockport has kept the Mission of excellence in liberal arts & professional education at the undergrad. & grad. levels. The review reflected a commitment to cultural diversity at many levels & linked to institutional goals focused on student learning.

Can I read the self study?
Yes, the self study is available on Brockport’s Middle States web site at: www.brockport.edu/middlestates

What happens during the site visit?
The MSCHE evaluation team will be on campus April 1-4, 2012. They will review our self study and all related documentation & conduct both scheduled and impromptu meetings with various individuals & groups on campus. The team of the on the last day of the visit a preliminary report will be drafted and an oral report given to the College’s faculty. A formal report will be sent to the College in the summer or early fall of 2012.

Executive Summary
Brockport is committed to student success, achieved through a combination of major General Ed. (GE) & co-curricular program development. Implementation of critical thinking, excellence in liberal arts & professional education at the undergrad & grad. levels. The review period was characterized by institutional organizational reintegration, integration with Ongoing & new planning initiatives. Despite funding cuts Brockport has kept the Mission of student success. Unique features are:

The distance of our students’ mission & goals & those of Brockport to achieve these goals. Student learning outcomes, budgets, new planning initiatives, and new planning initiatives.

Chapter 1: Self study Introduction
Brockport offers a multi-dimensional education experience to 1,166 undergrad. & 1,243 grad. students. Our common goal is student success. Faculty & staff share a clear view of the history, current educational experiences & future possibilities of the institution.

Chapter 2: Nature & Scope of Self Study
Four overarching concerns were addressed in the 2007 standards report to MSCHE:
1. A structural budget deficit & liquidity maintenance needs
2. Increased use of adjunct faculty
3. Declining enrollment, faculty, staff & students
4. Rigor, independence & balance of grad. & undergrad. programs

Chapter 3: Organization of Steering & Subcommittees
Co-Chairs: Joel Frater, Donna Konw, Program Manager: Kathy Mangone Steering Committee (SC): Scott Himmels, Leah Barrett, Jordan Bistline (grad students), Taylor Brown (undergrad), John Daly, Jamie Haid, Kali Lakshman, Elizabeth Meyer Green, Susan Potter, Karen Patterson, Andrea Rubbery, Jeffrey Smith, James Spiller Steering Committee members also served as advisors to subcommittees.

Chapter 4: Mission, Goals & Assessment
Chairs & Liaisons: Nicholas Fox, Jeffrey Lishak, Andrea Rubbery Subcommittees: Allison Chase, Karen D’Amore, Carol Godwin, Debra Joseph Mendil (grad student), Drea Levy, Beth Ralph, Scherriebrain, Denise Valenta

Standard 1: Mission & Goals
MSCHE Definitions: The Mission defines the institution’s purpose, indicates who the institution serves and what it intends to accomplish. Stated goals are consistent with aspirations and specify how the institution will fulfill its mission. Mission & goals are generated with participation from institutional members and a governing body. Raising program development & practices.

How Brockport Meets Standard 1:
1. Consistent, clearly defined mission & goals, which are shared, reviewed & evaluated at many key levels & linked to institutional goals focused on student learning. Brockport’s Mission defines our purpose, who we serve & why we intend to accomplish. Mission & goals are used to develop & shape programs & evaluate effectiveness.
3. Development of whole student through attention to highest quality scholarship, civic engagement, & assessment for student success.

Strengths & Accomplishments:
1. Strategic planning along College goals & objectives with the Mission. 2011-16 Strategic Plan (SP) aligns College towards becoming a “nationally recognized comprehensive master’s institution focused on student success”.

Challenges:
Maintaining the impact on strategic goals in times of economic uncertainty

Recommends for Improvement:
1. Continue with full implementation of the 2011-16 SP
2. Continue to access institutional strategic priorities to ensure relevance in a fluctuating budget climate

Standard 2: Institutional Assessment
MSCHE Definition: Institution has developed & implemented assessment process that evaluates overall effectiveness in achieving mission & goals & its compliance with accreditation standards.

How Brockport Meets Standard 2:
1. Organized, assessment process to evaluate & improve programs & services
2. “Institutional assessment” refers to high-level assessment of the major indicators of institutional health

Strengths & Accomplishments:
1. Faculty, staff & students included in formulation of SP & goals
2. SP goals have assigned objectives, performance indicators & assessments
3. Institutional Effectiveness & Accountability Committee (IEAC) changed with monitoring process through development of E&I methods of assessment. Strategic goals supported with resources & prioritized in budget process

Challenges:
1. Coordinating the achievement of a complex set of institutional goals
2. Monitoring divisional SPs to ensure that linkages are maintained, roles are identified

Recommends for Improvement:
1. Provide training, support, & funding at all levels to promote a culture of evidence
2. Improve attention at all levels to document making & available assessment information & data for decision making & review of KPIs
3. Complete 2009-2011 SP initiative & implement a formal reporting structure
4. Recommit IEAC to further improve institutional assessment practices & monitor progress on institutional-level goals devised from the 2011-16 SP
5. Implement TALAS assessment system to add organizational power to assessments

Chapter 5: Planning & Resource Allocation
Chairs & Liaisons: Mary Morgan, Gary O’Han, Leah Barrett, Karen Ratts Subcommittees: Michelle Averett, Jessa Donnelly-Mayer, Julie Ford, Joe Fraker, Linda Hacker, Scott Hansen, Donald Kent, Adam Rich, Diana Serrato (student)

MSCHE Definitions: Institution conducts ongoing planning & resource allocation process based on mission & goals, develops objectives to achieve them, & delivers results of assessments for balanced & meaningful institutional goals. Implementation & subsequent evaluation of the strategic plan success & resource allocation support development & change to improve & maintain institutional quality.

How Brockport Meets Standard 2:
1. Of Adm. & Finance & ENMA have many strengths; the College is aware of structural improvements that need to be made & is in the process of addressing these issues

Strengths & Accomplishments:
1. Strategic reorganization of Academic Affairs Division
2. Reorganizing graduate educ. in light of budget fluctuations

Challenges:
1. Continuing to diversify faculty & staff
2. Collect data on success of promotional efforts to diversify applicant pool, job offers & retention of these employees

Read the complete self study at: www.brockport.edu/middlestates

If I have questions, who can I contact?
Co-Chair: Joel Frater (jfrater@brockport.edu), Donna Konw (dkonw@brockport.edu), Program Manager Kathy Mangone (kmangone@brockport.edu) or any member of the Steering Committee. They can also include a staff, group, or individual meeting to discuss the self study.

What does reaccreditation mean to students?
An accredited college meets national standards and ensures quality.
Only accredited institutions can offer students federal and state financial aid.
Only credits from accredited colleges can be transferred to other schools. Most graduate programs require applicants to have degrees from accredited schools.
Some schools are unaccredited or accredited by non-recognized organizations.

How should we prepare for the site visit?
1. Keep the self study process and be able to explain it to colleagues and students.
2. Prepare your dept. for an unannounced visit from the MSCHE evaluation team.
3. Make sure all dept. records are up-to-date. Essential documents include:
   - Annual reports/Periods Program Reviews
   - Mission/vision statements
   - Strategic planning documents
   - Annual assessment reports
   - Handbook for all courses
   - Syllabi for all courses
   - CUS/resumes for grad. & part-time faculty/staff
   - Department/unit meeting minutes
   - Program-specific accreditation reports
   - Operations/procedures manuals
   - Departmental course descriptions
   - Advancement guidelines
   - Organizational charts
   - Website
   - All departmental publications
   - Appointment, promotions, & tenure documents

Brockport Foundation contributed $1 million for student success initiatives

Challenge:
Renovating academic buildings & facilities to attract students.

Some schools are unaccredited or accredited by non-recognized organizations. Degrees from these colleges may not be recognized by other schools or organizations.
Chapter 7–Shared Governance, Ethics & Administration

Chapter 8–Faculty & Academics

Chapter 9–Related Educational Activities

Chapter 10–Student Learning, Assessment, & Continuous Improvement

Chapter 11 Conclusion & Summary of Recommendations

Chapter 12–Student Learning, Assessment, & Continuous Improvement

Chapter 13–Related Educational Activities

Chapter 14–Assessment & Continuous Improvement

Chapter 15 Conclusion & Summary of Recommendations

The College is in good standing relative to the MSCHE 14 Standards of Excellence.