

# The Role & Impact of Regional Accreditation on Institutional Well-Being

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# The Higher Learning Commission (North Central Association)

- Past/Present Accrediting Processes
  - Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP)
  - Program to Evaluate and Enhance Quality (PEAQ)
- Present/Future Accrediting Processes
  - “Open Pathway” replacing PEAQ
  - Ten-year Cycle, Assurance and Improvement Focuses

# Experience with Accreditation – Columbia College Chicago

- Columbia Culture
- PEAQ Institution
- Comprehensive Decennial Visit: Spring 2009

# The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

- Past Accrediting Processes
  - Compliance Certification
  - Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards and Federal Requirements
    - Assessment
- Present/Future Accrediting Processes
  - Compliance Certification
    - Faculty Qualifications
  - Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

# Experience with Accreditation – James Madison University

- JMU Culture
  - Last visit
- Comprehensive Decennial Visit: Spring 2012

# Middle States: The Standards

Middle States has 12 standards that must be assessed:

## *Institutional Context*

1. Mission, Goals, and Objectives
2. Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal
3. Institutional Resources
4. Leadership and Governance
5. Administration
6. Integrity

# Standards, continued

## *Educational Effectiveness*

7. Institutional Assessment

8. Student Admissions

9. Student Support Services

10. Faculty

11. Educational Offerings

12. General Education

13. Related Educational Activities

14. Assessment of Student Learning

# Historical Evolution

- 1965 Higher Education Act (HEA) compelled accreditors to comply with HEA criteria to receive Title IV funding (amended many times)
- Amendments in the 1980s and 1990s brought in “outcomes assessment” language
- 2000s brought more calls for accountability (i.e. Spellings Commission)



# Focus of Last Decade

- Assessment should be done at every level of the institution (institutional assessment, course-based assessment, etc.)
- MSCHE stresses that assessment will not go away
- The “Teaching-Learning-Assessment Cycle” emphasized (closing the loop)

# Middle States Mission

- Their goal is to help institutions reach their own goals
- “Make sure your students graduate with the learning you value.”
- Institutions should cultivate a culture of assessment

# Benefits of Accreditation

# Hindrances of Accreditation