Preparing for re-accreditation

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As continue to prepare for your Fall 2017 visit, let’s review:

- the basics of accreditation
- the new *Standards for Accreditation*
- the self-study: process and product
- the team’s visit
Accreditation: a definition

A voluntary system of self-regulation carried out by peer review in which an institution or program is found to meet or exceed a set of standards.
Dual purposes of accreditation

Assure quality  Foster improvement
Accreditation = Standards + Mission

Standards of higher education community + Mission of the institution

evidence, evidence, evidence, evidence, evidence, evidence, evidence, evidence
Accreditation certifies that the institution ...

- Has appropriate purposes
- Has the resources needed to accomplish its purposes
- Demonstrates that it is accomplishing its purposes
- Has the ability continue to accomplish its purposes
Three-part process:

- Self-study
- Site Visit
- Commission action

It all starts with the *Standards for Accreditation* – which have been revised!

Standards are available on the CIHE website
2016 “New” Standards

1. Mission and Purposes
2. Planning and Evaluation
3. Organization and Governance
4. The Academic Program
5. Students
6. Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship
7. Institutional Resources
8. Educational Effectiveness
9. Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure

Format
- Statement of the Standard – a summary in bold
- Numbered paragraphs – to explicate the statement of the Standard
- Subheadings – for organization and clarity
Three major changes in 2016

1. **Less emphasis on inputs/resources:**

   Standards 7 (Library and Other Information Resources) 8 (Physical and Technological Resources) and 9 (Financial Resources) combined into a single new standard, *Institutional Resources*
## Three Dimensions of Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are there enough books in the library?</td>
<td>Are students using the books?</td>
<td>Are students gaining skills of information literacy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the faculty well qualified?</td>
<td>Is there good instructional practice?</td>
<td>Are students achieving the learning outcomes of the program and institution?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the curriculum appropriate?</td>
<td>Do students get practice and feedback?</td>
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</tbody>
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Three major changes in 2016

2. New Standard: Educational Effectiveness*: Combines parts of Standards 2 (Planning and Evaluation), 4 (The Academic Program), 6 (Students)

More attention to mission-appropriate measures of student success, including quantitative measures of success (e.g., rates of progression, retention, transfer, graduation; licensure passage rates; employment)

* aka: the “no place to hide” standard
Standard 8

The institution demonstrates its effectiveness by ensuring satisfactory levels of student achievement on mission-appropriate student outcomes. Based on verifiable information, the institution understands what its students have gained as a result of their education and has useful evidence about the success of its recent graduates. This information is used for planning and improvement, resource allocation and to inform the public about the institution. Student achievement is at a level appropriate for the degree awarded. (Standard 8)
Three major changes in 2016

3. Combine Standards 10 (Public Disclosure) and 11 (Integrity) to form a new standard: Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure

More emphasis on what is owed to the public
What is the self-study?

“an intensive endeavor involving individuals throughout the entire institution in a process of self-examination aimed at institutional improvement …”

“... a clear, concise and accurate picture of the institution as a dynamic entity with a sense of its history, an understanding of its present, and a vision of its future.”
In other words,

Self study is as much a process as it is a product.
The self study process

- 18-24 months
- Steering Committee, Writing Committees
- Widespread involvement of the campus community (committee service, open meetings, website; use existing structures)
The self-study product

“A holistic and integrated document ... that reflects the totality of one institution.”

- Institutional characteristics
- **Introduction** (describes self-study process)
- **Overview** (sets institutional context)
- **Narrative** (based on the Standards)
- **Data Forms** (Data First, Student Success)
The self-study narrative

• About 100 pages; a chapter for each Standard
• Analytic framework:
  • Description: what are we doing?
  • Appraisal: how well are we doing?
  • Projection: what commitments do we make?
Keys to a Successful Self-Study

- Candid
- Concise
- Clear
- Useful
- Mission-driven
- Analytical
- Distinctive
- Participatory
- Evidence-based
Site visit

- Sunday afternoon - Wednesday morning
- 8-9 team members, from peer institutions, knowledgeable about the Standards
- Meetings galore! Including “open meetings” for faculty, staff, and students
- Team room, including (electronic) access to supporting documents
- Exit report
After the site visit

- Team writes a report
- Institution gets to (1) check draft report for factual accuracy and (2) respond to final report
- Team makes a confidential recommendation to the Commission
Commission Action

- Semester following site visit
- Commission reviews self-study, team report, confidential recommendation, institutional response to team report
- President and Team Chair attend Commission meeting
- Letter to President
Benefits of accreditation

- Systematic process of self-review
- Expertise of team members
- Become a part of a larger educational community
- Improved decision-making
- Assurance of quality to general public and to students
- Easier transfer of academic credit
- Students qualify for federal financial aid; college qualifies for federal and state grant programs
Other sources of information and assistance

CIHE website
https://cihe.neasc.org/

CIHE staff
https://cihe.neasc.org/about_us/staff/

Other colleges
Google “NEASC self-study”
Questions ... comments ... observations?

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Thank you!