

CSI Self-Study Updates

What is Middle States Accreditation all about?

In short, to ensure students are provided with a quality higher education in the [United States](#), Colleges and Universities are required to receive accreditation through an authorized accrediting body. The College of Staten Island, along with each of the CUNY Colleges, is accredited by the [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#) (MSCHE). Once an academic institution is accredited through Middle States, it then goes through a reaccreditation process every eight years. The reaccreditation process involves conducting a Self-Study, which is designed to assess how the College fulfills its mission and goals in alignment with the [Middle States Standards](#). Through this process, involving the entire College community, we hope to identify opportunities for improvement and innovation in the years ahead, while ensuring that the College earns re-accreditation for an eight-year cycle.

Who conducts the Self-Study?

The Self-Study is overseen by a Steering Committee and eight Working Groups, one for each seven Middle States Standard and the Verification of Compliance. The Steering Committee and the Working Groups are comprised of faculty, staff and students from across the College. To learn more about who the members are, visit: www.csi.cuny.edu/middle-states.

What does the Self-Study Involve?

The Self-Study consists of the Self-Study Design, the Self-Study Report and the Self-Study On-Site Visit.

- The ***Self-Study Design*** is a written document that serves as a guide for the Self-Study process. It provides information on our institutional priorities, intended outcomes of the self-study, guidelines for reporting, a timeline, and a communication plan. *Good news: The design has already been created by the Steering Committee, submitted to Middle States, and approved in June 2020.*
- The ***Self-Study Report*** consists of a written reflection and analysis of the institution's mission and goals in relation to the Middle States Standards. This work occurs in the 2020-2021 academic year, starting now, and is overseen and coordinated by the Self-Study Steering Committee and Working Groups.
- The ***Self-Study On-Site Visit*** is conducted by an Evaluation Team comprised of our peers and will occur in the 2021-2022 academic year. The peer reviewers are selected by Middle States and consist of volunteers from other Middle States accredited institutions. An initial visit with the Evaluation Team chair occurs in Fall 2021 and helps us prepare for the Evaluation Team visit that will occur in Spring 2022. The Evaluation team reviews the Self-Study report, meets with stakeholders from across the College (faculty, staff, and students), and then provides a written analysis of their evaluation to Middle States about whether or not we are in compliance with the Standards. The Middle States Commission then reviews the Evaluation Team report and makes an accreditation determination.

What has been done to date?

- Planning for the Self-Study began in fall 2019 with the formation of Steering Committee by the Provost. In spring 2020, the co-chairs and Steering Committee members completed the draft of the Self-Study Design. This work involved identifying institutional priorities and Self-Study outcomes, as well as potential working group members. The design was submitted to Middle States and approved in June 2020. To review a copy of the Self-Study, click the following link and log in using your CSI log-in information: [Self-Study Design](#).
- During summer 2020, collection of evidence to support how the College is in compliance with the Middle States Standards began and an Evidence Inventory was developed.
- As of September 2020, the recruitment of Working Group members began.
- On October 1, 2020, CSI hosted a virtual Self-Study Preparation Visit with our Middle States liaison, Vice President, Dr. Idna Corbett. During the visit Dr. Corbett met with the College community. These meetings allowed her to explain the reaccreditation process, discuss the role of the College community, and answer questions about the process. The PowerPoint from the Open Session is available, by clicking the following link and logging in with your CSI log-in information: [Middle States Self-Study Preparation Visit](#).

What are our Self-Study Institutional Priorities and Intended Outcomes?

Self-Study Institutional Priorities

- 1) Foster success for students at all levels and from diverse backgrounds by providing a comprehensive approach to student support services.
- 2) Demonstrate a commitment to faculty and student scholarship and the integration of this work into campus life.
- 3) Advance the College as an “anchor institution” on Staten Island by promoting the two-way exchange of knowledge and expertise between the College community and the Staten Island community.

Self-Study Intended Outcomes

- 1) Demonstrate CSI’s compliance with the Middle States Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation and achieve reaccreditation.
- 2) Focus on continuous improvement in the attainment of CSI’s mission and its institutional priorities.
- 3) Engage in an inclusive and transparent self-reflective process that actively involves all members of the College community.
- 4) Revitalize processes for assessing institutional effectiveness across the College and strengthen the alignment with planning processes.

To learn more about how these priorities and outcomes were identified, please review the Self-Study Design, by clicking the following link and logging in using your CSI log-in information: [Self-Study Design](#).

What's next?

During the fall 2020 semester, after working group membership has been assembled, the Self-Study Working Groups will begin reviewing the Middle States Standards in relation to the work of CSI; collecting evidence to document how CSI is in compliance with the Standards; and drafting a narrative.

Please be on the lookout for emails from the Self-Study Steering Committee and Working Group members to assist with the collection of evidence.

How can I get involved?

There are multiple ways you can participate in the Self-Study process.

- Become familiar with the Middle States Standards, the Self-Study Institutional Priorities of CSI, and the Self-Study Intended Outcomes for CSI
- Assist with the collection of evidence to document how the College is in compliance with the Middle States Standards
- Participate on a Working Group
- Provide feedback on drafts submitted to the College community
- Attend Self-Study events

If you would like to provide comments or more actively participate in the Self-Study, please contact the Steering Committee at CSISelf-Study@csi.cuny.edu.