



Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

Revised Accreditation Process: Additional Information on the Annual Institutional Update

The Commission continues to receive feedback on the accreditation process changes endorsed by members in January 2016. Thus far, of particular interest are the data elements that may be requested via the Annual Institutional Update.

Given the level of member interest, the media attention prompted by a recent Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC) press release (www.msche.org/documents/C-RACPressReleaseFINAL9-16-16.pdf), and the legislation introduced by Senators Elizabeth Warren, Dick Durbin, and Brian Schatz on September 22 known as *The Accreditation Reform and Enhance Accountability Act*, the town hall PowerPoint presentation has been updated. It now includes the ***provisional*** metrics derived from Work Group recommendations and additional input provided by the Commission at its June 2016 meeting. To view the provisional list, please refer to slides 19 through 24 of the Town Hall PowerPoint presentation (www.msche.org/documents/2016TownHallsPost-SanJuan.pdf).

These metrics are “provisional” because the Commission continues to gather feedback from the town halls and because the Commission must vote on the entire process proposal at its November 2016 meeting, prior to submitting it to the members for approval in January 2017.

The mandatory elements proposed use IPEDS data as descriptors of either “student achievement” or institutional health. However, rightfully, the Annual Institutional Update will also provide institutions with the opportunity to include “optional measures” to place these Federal data within the context of an institution’s mission and challenges. Doing so positions MSCHE in the forefront of shaping a more nuanced and accurate approach to describing our institutions’ commitment to student success.