Assessment of Educational Effectiveness Expectations: 2016 Self-Study Outcomes

By Don Sutherland

Even as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's (MSCHE) accreditation standards have been changed, assessment of student learning remains an integral component of the new standards. Standard 14: Assessment of Student Learning has been replaced by Standard V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment. The new standard is broader in scope than the preceding one. Nevertheless, attributes such as "clearly stated educational goals," "organized and systematic assessments," and "consideration and use of assessment results for the improvement of educational effectiveness" remain key accreditation expectations.

An examination of the 2016 Self-Study outcomes that resulted in follow-up requests on Standard 14 highlights those expectations. The following table ranks the most common citations.

Snapshot of the 2016 Self-Study Citations Related to Assessment of Student Learning:

Rank	Issue	% of Related Citations
1.	Existence of a documented, organized, sustained/sustainable student learning assessment process	69%
2.	Evidence assessment information is used to improve teaching, learning, promote continuous improvement and/or inform institutional effectiveness	63%
3.	Use of direct and indirect measures/multiple measures	38%
4.	Clearly articulated statements of expected or key student learning outcomes	31%
5.	Student learning assessment information is shared and discussed with appropriate constituents	25%
6.	Support and collaboration of faculty assessment/assessment engages all faculty/assessment is faculty-led	19%
7.	Multi-year calendar of assessment activities	6%
	Periodic evaluation of the student learning assessment process	6%
	Use of existing data/information	6%