

Becoming Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Who is the Middle States Commission on Higher Education?

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is recognized as a regional accrediting agency by the U.S. Secretary of Education and by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The MSCHE accredits degree-granting colleges and universities located within the mid-Atlantic region, which includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commission also accredits a small number of international institutions. At present, the Commission is unable to consider applications from institutions not incorporated and licensed as institutions of higher education in the United States.

What kind of schools are eligible for accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education?

MSCHE member institutions must be chartered and/or licensed to operate as institutions of higher education within the Middle States region and be able to award postsecondary degrees (Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate). The authorization to do so must originate from the appropriate governmental agency within the region in which the institution operates, and within the Middle States region. Institutions that offer only post-secondary certificates, diplomas, or licenses are not eligible for accreditation by the MSCHE. Through peer evaluation, the MSCHE examines each of its member institutions as a whole, rather than specific programs within an institution. The MSCHE does not accredit stand-alone courses or programs. MSCHE accreditation is not transferable from one institution or region to another.

What are the basic requirements of an institution seeking accreditation with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education?

An institution seeking accreditation with the MSCHE must be able to meet the Commission's requirements of affiliation and demonstrate the ability to comply with its standards for accreditation within the federally mandated 5-year time frame. In 2014, the Commission adopted the [Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation](#) for use by all applicant, candidate, and accredited institutions. In addition, the institution must be able to comply with the Commission's current [Policies, guidelines, and procedures](#).

The institution must be currently operational, with students actively enrolled in its academic programs and must be able to demonstrate that its students are able to achieve appropriate learning outcomes.

For more information about the process of applying for accreditation with the MSCHE, please contact applicationprocess@msche.org.