



## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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### Annual Institutional Update

*Note: This is part of the proposal for refocused accreditation cycle and processes. The final details will be developed with input from member institutions.*

Once a year the institution electronically submits to the Commission:

1. Data the federal government requires be reported;
2. Institutional data and documents required by the Commission and directly related to the Requirements of Affiliation and Standards for Accreditation;
3. Data and documents that demonstrate compliance with accreditation-relevant federal regulations.

#### *Comments*

1. The kinds of information that an institution will submit will be identified with input from member institutions.
2. The necessity for and use of all data and documentation elements will be clearly explained.
3. Previously submitted information will be updated, not re-submitted, each year.
4. The institution, along with the Commission and its peer evaluators, will have access to all submitted information and documents, for its own purposes, throughout the accreditation cycle.

#### *Benefits*

1. The annual collection of information from institutions, some of it required by the federal government, creates an opportunity for an institution to provide updates of various kinds to the Commission and for the Commission to respond to the institution as is appropriate and useful.
2. The input from member institutions on the kinds of information that institutions will submit is intended to ensure that the information is useful, meaningful, and cost-effective.
3. The availability of accumulated institutional data and documentation in the Commission's information system, many of which are linked to the Requirements of Affiliation and/or the Standards for Accreditation, means that institutions do not need to resubmit or upload data and documents multiple times for different purposes. This reduces the institutional time and resources needed for accreditation activities, including the institutional self-study process.

4. The accumulation and accessibility of data enables data analysis—for example, trend analyses and cohort group comparisons—that is useful to the institution, peer evaluators, and the Commission.
5. The Annual Institutional Update, including the compliance review and institutional improvement components, makes unnecessary and will replace:
  - The current Annual Institutional Profile;
  - The current Periodic Review Report;
  - The current separate process for verifying an institution's compliance with accreditation-relevant federal regulations at the time of each accreditation event.
6. The Annual Institutional Update allows:
  - An off-site Mid-Point Peer Review of the institution utilizing the data and documentation collected over a number of years;
  - The availability of accumulated data for the institution and the Commission to utilize.