Overview

- What is accreditation – and why does it matter?
- What is UB doing to prepare for its upcoming review?
- How you can help

The aims of accreditation

- Accreditation is about *accountability* – and is intended to strengthen and sustain the quality and integrity of higher education by establishing and enforcing standards of excellence.
The aims of accreditation

- Accreditation is also about continuous self-improvement – and involves a process of peer review adopted by the higher educational community for its self-regulation.

How accreditation works

- How Accreditation Works
  - Organizations
  - Standards
  - Evaluation Process

Regional Accrediting Organizations
How accreditation works - Standards

1. Mission and Goals
2. Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal
3. Institutional Resources
4. Leadership and Governance
5. Administration
6. Integrity
7. Institutional Assessment
8. Student Admissions and Retention
9. Student Support Services
10. Faculty
11. Educational Offerings
12. General Education
13. Related Educational Activities
14. Assessment of Student Learning

How accreditation works – Process

Self-Study
Evidence
Visit

Why does it matter?

Do we need to take this seriously?

• In a word...yes
Recent Commission Actions - June 23, 2011

- **85 institutions reviewed**
  - 41 accreditation reaffirmed
  - 3 granted initial accreditation
  - 3 invited to initiate self-study
  - 1 granted Candidate for Accreditation Status
  - 10 placed on Warning
  - 4 placed on Probation
  - 3 had Warning status continued
  - 3 had Probation status continued
  - 1 removed from Warning status
  - 1 removed from Probation status
  - 2 reaffirmed following postponement
  - 1 had accreditation removed

Is Middle States Serious about accreditation?

SUNY Institutions (March 2005 - November 2009)

- Decennial Accreditation
  - No assessment issues for 13 institutions
  - Progress letters requested for 3 institutions
  - Monitoring reports requested for 7 institutions
  - Warnings issued for 2 institutions

- Progress Review Report (5-year)
  - No assessment issues for 19 institutions
  - Progress letters requested for 9 institutions
  - Monitoring reports requested for 3 institutions
  - Warnings issued for 1 institution

Most Recent Commission Action regarding UB
November 19, 2010

To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation.

To request a progress report, due October 1, 2011, documenting:
(1) the results of the assessment of institutional effectiveness are used to improve planning and budgeting (Standard 7)

(2) the institution’s evaluation of its assessment activities includes the identification of expected student learning outcomes at all levels, including for graduate programs, and the development of systematic measures of student learning in addition to indicators of student achievement (Standard 14).

The Big Deal

- **Assessment, assessment, assessment...**
  - Standard 7 – Institutional
  - Standard 14 – Student Learning
  - Cuts across all standards

- **The Challenge:** To provide evidence and reliable information that demonstrates how we are measuring our goals, and using that information to achieve our mission.
Define Goals
Objectives
Outcomes

Program Improvement

Assess Evidence

Correct Deficiencies

Measure Collected Data

Application of results to inform decision-making

**CYCLE OF ASSESSMENT**

UB’s Process

**Accreditation Timeline**

- **Fall 2003 - Last Middle States Decennial Accreditation**
  - Re-affirmation of full accreditation
  - No significant concerns
  - 20 suggestions related to the Self-Study Report
  - 3 suggestions from the Team Visit
- **Summer 2009 - Periodic Review Report**
  - 3 suggestions to be considered in decennial self-study (3 specifically relate to assessment)
- **November 19, 2009 – Middle States Commission request for Progress Letter**
- **October 1, 2011 – Submit Progress Letter to Middle States**

**Accreditation Timeline**

- **Fall 2011 - Submit Self-Study Design to Middle States**
- **2012 – Mock Review**
  - Focus on assessment and general education
  - Format similar to Comprehensive Program Review
- **2012 – 2013**
  - Collect Evidence that institution meets or exceeds Middle States standards
  - Submit Self-Study Materials to Middle States
- **2013 - 2014 - Evaluation Team Visit**
### Accreditation Process

- **Core Planning Group**
- **Working Teams**
- **Evidence Teams**

### 2011-2012
- Self Study (re: Standards)
- Address issues of assessment – and implementing our processes

### 2012-2013
- Review and implement program-improvement

### 2013-2014
- MSCHE Site visit

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### What can we do to help?

- Read the standards – and understand where your unit ‘fits’ in the big picture
- Get involved!
- Make sure the Core Planning Group and Working Teams are aware of your unit’s programs, initiatives, and documents