



## **Assessment and Regional Accreditation**

Howard University is a member of Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The University's participation and accredited status in MSCHE ensures the quality of academic and administrative programs across the institution, supports discipline-specific accreditation, allows Howard University to accept Title IV funding in the form of federal financial aid, and allows Howard University faculty to seek and attain most government-supported grants (NSF, NIH, NEA, etc.).

### **Standards**

Initial accreditation and the octennial reaffirmation process are based on a set of seven standards.

Standard I: Mission and Goals

Standard II: Ethics and Integrity

Standard III: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

Standard IV: Support of the Student Experience

Standard V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Standard VI: Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration

For each standard, MSCHE requires that the information presented in each standard undergoes "periodic assessment." Non-academic or administrative assessment ensures that all activities in Standards I-VII are periodically assessed and that changes are made based on data.

For Standard V, program-level assessments (student learning outcomes) are used to clarify that student learning is periodically assessed and that curricular and pedagogical changes are based on systematic collection of data.

### **How Assessment is Used for MSCHE Accreditation**

Mid-point and octennial reaffirmation narratives (self-studies) involve several pages of claims which are supported by evidence. Assessment reports and annual reports that cite improvements or recommendations based on assessment may be used as evidence in a self-study or acknowledged as an exceptional example.

### **What Can You Do?**

Timely and thoughtful completion of your assessment report (plan and results) is the best way to support the use of assessment data for MSCHE. Additionally, highlighting ways that your program has used assessment data to improve operations and teaching helps the University tell a fuller narrative of institutional effectiveness.