

# **Middle States Update and Call for Feedback on Self-Study Draft**

**October 2021**

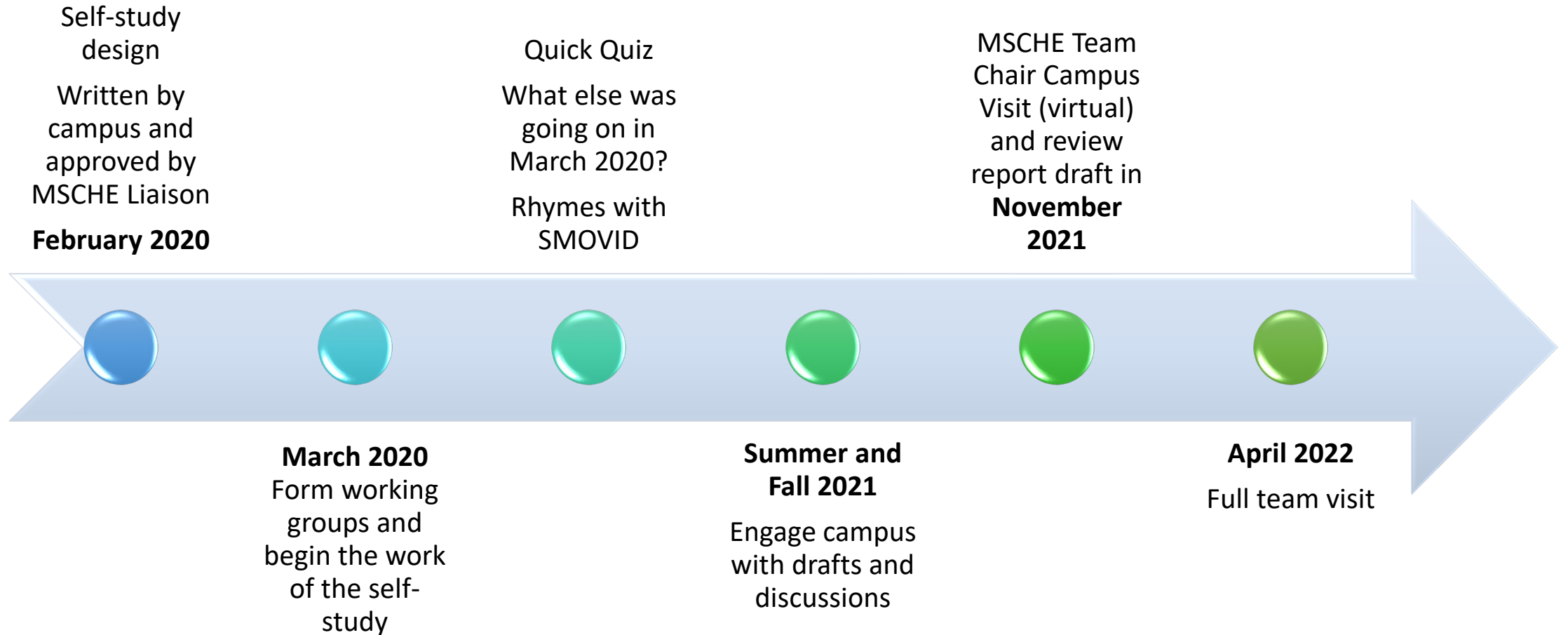


# Anatomy Of Middle States Self-Study

An institutional self-examination that integrates

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
  - Standards and Criteria
  - Requirements of Affiliation
- Federal Compliance
- SUNY Cortland Mission, Goals, Objectives

# Self-Study Process



# Cortland's Progress via Working Groups

- **Standards and Compliance** developed outlines demonstrating our status on meeting standards and inquiry based on evidence
- **Evidence Group** working with groups to document all evidence
- **Writing Group** taking outlines, determining chapter structures, style issues and drafting chapters
- **Student Outreach Group** focused on ways to engage a broad range of students to educate on Middle States and get their perspectives
- **Steering Committee** looking at overall process and progress

# Cortland's Goals for Self-Study

1. Achieve reaccreditation by demonstrating compliance with the Middle States Standards, Requirements of Affiliation, and federal compliance.
2. Acknowledge and celebrate work of campus constituents.
3. Analyze and identify areas of strength and improvement within the strategic plan based on evidence.
4. Identify opportunities for innovation and directions for the future.
5. Articulate the relationship of Middle States Standards and Requirements of Affiliation, SUNY Chancellor's Four Strategic Pillars, and institutional mission, priorities and objectives.
6. Increase engagement and institutional knowledge among members of the campus community through a reflective, inclusive and transparent self-appraisal process.
7. Increase alignment between the institutional strategic plan, divisional plans, and major campus plans including the Diversity Plan and Facilities Master Plan.
8. Increase use of evidence-based decision-making and expand the culture of continuous improvement.
9. Standardize operating procedures for assessment.

# Prior Feedback from MSCHE

- **2012 Self-Study Recommendations**

1. coordinate the financial plans into a multi-year planning document that will align with its carefully crafted strategic direction
  - Cortland's strategic priorities should form the basis for a multi-year strategic planning document that can inform the budgeting
  - specific goals and strategies, and appropriate assessments
2. Measurable goals, objectives, and student learning outcomes
  - should be developed and assessed in all academic programs at the course, program and unit levels,
  - the goal of creating and maintaining a culture of continuous improvement with regard to all of Cortland's strategic goals and priorities.


- **2017 Periodic Review Report Recommendations**

- We responded to recommendations
- Need to show fully implementation of plans we have (e.g., RAC, SLO work)

# Background Information

- Understanding MSCHE or Middle States
  - [Video on SUNY Cortland and Middle States](#)
  - [Middle States Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation](#)
- SUNY Cortland Strategic Plan
  - [Video on the SUNY Cortland Strategic Plan](#)
  - [SUNY Cortland Strategic Plan: 2018-2023](#)
  - [Institutional Planning and Assessment Committee Information](#)

# Tips for Readers of the Current Draft

- The draft has line numbers to help reference points in the chapters
- This draft should be considered a mid-point draft
- Based on feedback, there will be revisions
- Do not focus on copy editing at this point 
- The guiding framework for the self-study is *evidence-based* review of the standards, requirements, and our strategic plan
- Evidence inventory items are still being documented and are not yet available, but will be in future versions



# We Could Use Your Feedback!

- You are welcome to focus on a single chapter, multiple chapters or the entire document.
- Guiding Questions for Feedback
  - Are the standards and requirements of affiliation addressed?
  - Do we speak to our 11 institutional objectives from the strategic plan?
  - Do the strengths and progress make sense and evidence-based?
  - Are the suggestions reasonable and evidence-based?
- Online Feedback:
  - [https://sunycortland.formstack.com/forms/middle\\_states\\_october\\_draft\\_feedback](https://sunycortland.formstack.com/forms/middle_states_october_draft_feedback)

# Accessing the Self-Study Draft and Providing Feedback

- Available on the Middle States section of the Institutional Effectiveness website
- Feedback can be provided via the Middle States October Draft Feedback Survey
  - [https://sunycortland.formstack.com/forms/middle\\_states\\_october\\_draft\\_feedback](https://sunycortland.formstack.com/forms/middle_states_october_draft_feedback)

Questions? Feel free to contact a Middle States Steering Committee Member

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