Swarthmore College

It’s Time for Reaccreditation

2016-17 through 2018-19
Standards, Requirements, and Compliance

7  Standards for Accreditation

15 Requirements of Affiliation

8  Areas for Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations
Standards of Accreditation

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
Requirements of Affiliation

1. Authorization to operate
2. Institution is operational
3. Graduating one class before accreditation
4. Communicating with Commission in English
5. Compliance with government policies, regulations and requirements
6. Complying with Commission policies
7. Mission and goals
8. Systematic evaluation of all programs
9. Student learning programs
10. Institutional planning
11. Financial resources
12. Governance structure
13. Governing board conflicts of interest
14. Governing board providing information
15. Faculty
Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations

- Student Identity Verification in Distance and Correspondence Education
- Transfer of Credit Policies and Articulation Agreements
- Title IV Program Responsibilities
- Institutional Record of Student Complaints
- Required Information for Students and the Public
- Standing with State and Other Accrediting Agencies
- Contractual Relationships
- Assignment of Credit Hours
Timeline

2016-17
- Co-chairs attend MS Self-Study Institute
- Prepare Self-Study “Design”
- Steering Committee and Working Group appointments

2017-18
- Working Groups review materials, gather input, analyze, write reports
- Steering Committee synthesizes reports and drafts Self-Study
- Begin community reviews

2018-19
- Revise and finalize Self-Study
- Visit from Team Chair in fall
- External Review Team on campus in spring
So far...

• Co-chairs

  Carol Nackenoff  
  Richter Professor of Political Science

  Robin Shores  
  Dir. of Institutional Research and Assessment

• Core Group for early planning

  – Tom Stephenson, Provost
  – Liz Braun, Dean of Students
  – Greg Brown, VP Finance and Administration
  – Sharmaine Bradham LaMar, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the College
  – Consultation with President’s Staff

• COFP - appointment of Working Group Chairs => Steering Committee
What’s different this time...

- Revised standards: 14 => 7
- “Documentation Roadmap”
- Selected goals and priorities
- Not tied to a planning effort
College Goals

- Strategic Directions
- Self-Study on Learning, Working, and Living and the work of the resulting Action Committee
- President Smith’s Priorities
- Re-imagining the Student Experience: A Visioning Exercise
- Capital Campaign Priorities

- Access and Inclusion
- Academic Rigor and Creativity
- Education for Impact
Access and Inclusion

We strive to create an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to students, faculty, and staff whatever their backgrounds, country of origin, race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, class, and or cultural, political, and religious affiliations, among other considerations. We will recruit, admit, and support a diverse student body. This includes ensuring that no qualified students will be denied access to a Swarthmore education because of their financial circumstances, and investing funds for financial aid, student support services, and the “hidden costs” of education. It also includes creating environmentally sustainable, aesthetically appealing academic, residential, and communal spaces that will catalyze intellectual, social, and ethical growth and foster informal, serendipitous interactions between and among students, staff, and faculty.
Academic Rigor and Creativity

Through structures and incentives that encourage innovation, Swarthmore seeks to foster a curriculum of intellectual rigor and creativity that combines disciplinary strength and flexibility. We strive to recruit and retain outstanding, dedicated, and diverse scholar/teachers in order to offer a curriculum that is simultaneously innovative, interdisciplinary, and grounded in the traditional disciplines; that integrates civic and social engagement; and that supports student research, both independently and with faculty. Our signature Honors Program is the embodiment of these values and provides a model for the promise of education throughout the College and beyond.
Education for Impact

The College strives to serve the common good by creating opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to address some of the most pressing and urgent issues in our local and global communities, such as sustainability. This includes developing research, leadership, and service opportunities for students both in and beyond the classroom. Swarthmore seeks to encourage the ethical development of our students and engage them in efforts to promote social justice. Recognizing the mutually dependent relationship between students’ academic and extracurricular lives and achievements, Swarthmore makes a commitment to educating the whole person. In prioritizing education for impact, the College seeks to strengthen the liberal arts in today’s global community.
Updates at...

swarthmore.edu/
middle-states-accreditation-process