

# Middle States Commission on Higher Education

## Self-Study and Reaffirmation Visit for 2024

Lackawanna College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and abides by all standards set forth by the commission. The College has been accredited by MSCHE since 1973, with the last reaffirmation in 2015. The College plans to welcome MSCHE peer reviewers to the Scranton Campus in the spring of 2024 for a reaffirmation visit. Along with the visit, the College prepares a Self-Study document demonstrating compliance with all seven MSCHE standards.

### Benefits of Accreditation:

- Students are eligible to receive state and federal financial aid
- Students are easily able to transfer credits to other higher education institutions
- Ensures that colleges are consistently making improvements and accomplishing their mission

MSCHE is recognized by the United States Department of Education and accredits institutions across the United States as well as globally. They assure students and the public of the educational quality of higher education.

*“The Commission’s accreditation process ensures institutional accountability, self-appraisal, improvement, and innovation through peer review and the rigorous application of standards within the context of institutional mission.” (www.msche.org)*

## Self-Study Process

The Self-Study process is a platform for educational institutions to demonstrate their successes, document compliance, and promote self-reflection for meaningful change. With participation from all divisions within the college evaluating all processes used by the College, administration is able to identify strengths and weaknesses and provide the actions for necessary changes and improvements.

The **Executive Steering Committee** consists of the College’s Provost, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of Curriculum and Faculty Affairs, and the Associate Director - Academic Quality.

Executive Steering Committee Member	Responsibility	Title & College Department
Erica Barone-Prizzi, Ph.D.	Accreditation Liaison Officer Executive Steering Committee Member	Provost
Kelly Musti	Self-Study Chair Executive Steering Committee Member	Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs & Dean of Health Sciences; Academic Affairs
Adrienne Asbury	Self-Study Chair Executive Steering Committee Member	Dean of Curriculum and Faculty Affairs; Academic Affairs
Lindsey Munley	Executive Steering Committee Member	Associate Director - Academic Quality; Academic Affairs

The **Steering Committee** consists of the Executive Steering Committee and each of the 16 working group co-chairs. A **working group** was created for each standard, with two co-chairs for each working group (Standard II is divided up into two working groups, with a total of four co-chairs). The co-chairs will provide strong leadership to their working groups and guide them in the Self-Study process.

<b>Working Group Co-Chair Member</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Title &amp; College Department</b>
Abbey Judge	Standard 1 Co-Chair	Pre-College Program Director; Student Success
Shelly Gower	Standard 1 Co-Chair	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Gopu Kiron	Standard 2 (Criteria 1-5) Co-Chair	Associate Dean of eLearning & Information Literacy; Academic Affairs
Brian Fanelli	Standard 2 (Criteria 1-5) Co-Chair	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Sharon Danks	Standard 2 (Criteria 6-9) Co-Chair	Associate Director; Student Financial Services
Eric Larson	Standard 2 (Criteria 6-9) Co-Chair	Director of Athletics; Athletics
Susan Gilroy-King	Standard 3 Co-Chair	Faculty; Academic Affairs
April Harris-Snyder	Standard 3 Co-Chair	Hazleton Satellite Center Director
Rebecca Cerra	Standard 4 Co-Chair	Student Success Manager; Student Success
Tierny Cresswell	Standard 4 Co-Chair	Director of Student Wellness Program; Student Wellness
Alicia Burns	Standard 5 Co-Chair	Faculty & Division Chairperson; Academic Affairs
Meegan Murray	Standard 5 Co-Chair	Director of Physical Therapist Assistant Program & Division Lead; Academic Affairs
Katie Michaels	Standard 6 Co-Chair	Director of Enrollment; Enrollment
Stephanie Decker	Standard 6 Co-Chair	Associate Vice President of Social and Economic Impact; Office of Social and Economic Impact
Emy Kurilla	Standard 7 Co-Chair	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Kris Liebegott	Standard 7 Co-Chair	Dean of Students; Student Conduct

Along with providing leadership for the Self-Study process, the Steering Committee will evaluate and determine how Lackawanna College's mission and institutional priorities align with the Middle States Standards. The Steering Committee is also responsible for:

- Developing the Self-Study design, process, and goals that properly reflect Lackawanna College
- Charge and support the Working Groups by coordinating effective collaborations
- Creating and following a timeline
- Assisting Working Group members in collecting and organizing supportive evidence
- Writing, reviewing, and revising reports
- Overseeing the completion of the Self-Study Report

The Steering Committee Members were provided resources for the Self-Study and the materials from the Self-Study Institute to read and follow for guidance. The Steering Committee was also provided

a guide for writing reports and the lines of inquiry that were developed for each Standard by the Self-Study Chairs. The lines of inquiry were developed to reflect the relationship of the Standards with the Colleges mission, goals, and institutional priorities.

### Self-Study Timeline

Date	Action Item
October and November 2021	Lackawanna representatives participated in MSCHE’s Self-Study Institute
January 2022	Campus Kickoff Town Hall
February 2022	Steering Committee Kickoff and Self-Study Preparation Visit with Dr. Sean McKitrick
March 2022	Working Groups Kickoff Meeting (Each Working Group holds this individually)
May 2022	Working Groups Report #1 Due (Share what you have so far) Executive Steering Committee provides feedback on report to Working Group co-chairs
June 2022	Dr. McKitrick meets with various campus constituencies to discuss Self-Study process
October 2022	Working Groups Report #2 Due Executive Steering Committee provides feedback on report to Working Group co-chairs
December 2022	Working Groups Report #3 Due Executive Steering Committee provides feedback on report to Working Group co-chairs
January 2023	Chapter Draft completed. Full draft shared with Cabinet and the Steering Committee. Feedback solicited. Update on process shared with Board of Trustees
February and March 2023	Chapter Inventory Documentation
Spring and Summer 2023	Revisions to Draft by Steering Committee and Cabinet
September 2023	Final draft submitted to Board of Trustees, Cabinet, and entire College community for review and comment
October 15, 2023	Revisions made by Executive Steering Committee. Final draft completed
November 2023	Submission to MSCHE
Spring 2024	Lackawanna College prefers a Spring 2024 evaluation team visit

### I. Mission and Goals

The institution’s mission defines its purpose within the context of higher education, the students it serves, and what it intends to accomplish. The institution’s stated goals are clearly linked to its mission and specify how the institution fulfills its mission.

Working Group Members	Title & College Department
<b>Standard I</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Abbey Judge &amp; Shelly Gower</b>	
Penny Reppa	Faculty & Math Center Director; Academic Affairs
Denise Duda	Student Success & Tutor Coordinator; Student Success
Maggie Prudente	Direct Care Worker Instructor/Evaluator and Healthcare Pathway Program Coordinator; Academic Affairs
Jef Bauman	Online Student Experience Coordinator; Student Success

Jeff Gregory	Director of College Enrollment Partnerships; Enrollment
Bill Schoen	Director of Continuing Education; Continuing Education

### Working Group Charge

Analyze the extent to which Lackawanna College has a strong understanding and execution of the institutional mission and goals.

## II. Ethics and Integrity

Ethics and integrity are central, indispensable, and defining hallmarks of effective higher education institutions. In all activities, whether internal or external, an institution must be faithful to its mission, honor its contracts and commitments, adhere to its policies, and represent itself truthfully.

Working Group Members	Title & College Department
<b>Standard II – Criterion 1-5</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Gopu Kiron &amp; Brian Fanelli</b>	
HR Representative	Human Resources Business Partner; Human Resources
Stephanie McDaniels	Director of Sonography Programs; Academic Affairs
Jenette Kiesendahl	Faculty & Writing Center Director; Academic Affairs
Steve Voytek	Student Financial Services Counselor; Student Financial Services
John Baldino	Faculty & Center for Teaching and Learning Director; Academic Affairs
Danny Berg	Coordinator of Athletic Operations/Fundraising; Athletics

Working Group Members	Title & College Department
<b>Standard II – Criterion 6-9</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Sharon Danks &amp; Erik Larson</b>	
Gina Iacovazzi	Controller; Business Office
Mary Lou Dotzel	Director of Surgical Technology Program; Academic Affairs
Sue Gumble	Director of Petroleum & Natural Gas Program; Academic Affairs
Will Craven	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Melanie Kowalski	Director of Information Technology; IT
Timur Maskayez	Faculty; Academic Affairs

### Working Group Charge

Analyze the extent to which Lackawanna College demonstrates a strong sense of ethics and integrity.

### III. Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

An institution provides students with learning experiences that are characterized by rigor and coherence at all program, certificate, and degree levels, regardless of instructional modality. All learning experiences, regardless of modality, program pace/schedule, level, and setting are consistent with higher education expectations.

<b>Working Group Members</b>	<b>Title &amp; College Department</b>
<b>Standard III</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Susan Gilroy-King &amp; April Harris-Snyder</b>	
Hope Wormuth	Director of Occupational Therapy Assistant Program; Academic Affairs
Diane Parlanti	Director of Training Institute; Continuing Education
Jackie Speicher	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Bobby Dee	Network & Systems Administrator; IT
Sharon Nazarchuk	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Alicia Grega	Adjunct Faculty; Academic Affairs
Karen Torres	Student - Fellow

#### Working Group Charge

Analyze the extent to which Lackawanna College provides students with learning experiences that are characterized by rigor and coherence at all program, certificate, and degree levels, regardless of instructional modality.

### IV. Support of the Student Experience

Across all educational experiences, settings, levels, and instructional modalities, the institution recruits and admits students whose interests, abilities, experiences, and goals are congruent with its mission and educational offerings. The institution commits to student retention, persistence, completion, and success through a coherent and effective support system sustained by qualified professionals, which enhances the quality of the learning environment, contributes to the educational experience, and fosters student success.

<b>Working Group Members</b>	<b>Title &amp; College Department</b>
<b>Standard IV</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Rebecca Cerra &amp; Tierney Creswell</b>	
Phillip Campbell	Sunbury Satellite Center Director
Chris Kiehart	Faculty & Director of Disability Services; Academic Affairs
Charlie Zazzera	Student Success & Career Coach

Kayla Kindt	Associate Registrar; Registrar's Office
Stacey Cognetti	eLearning Coordinator; Academic Affairs
Karolyn DeMarco	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Jeremy Collins	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Shelby Morgan	Athletic Academic Mentor; Student Success
Alura Henderson	Student - Fellow

### Working Group Charge

Analyze the degree to which Lackawanna College provides sufficient experiences to appropriately admit, support, and retain students.

## V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Assessment of student learning and achievement demonstrates that the institution's students have accomplished educational goals consistent with their program of study, degree level, the institution's mission, and appropriate expectations for institutions of higher education.

Working Group Members	Title & College Department
<b>Standard V</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Alicia Burns and Meegan Murray</b>	
Enrollment Rep.	Enrollment
Denise Larson	AVP Enrollment Management and Student Success
Nicole Bradigan	Faculty & Division Chairperson; Academic Affairs
Nick Costanzo	Registrar; Registrar's Office
Mary Kate Ruddy	Nursing Lab Simulation Manager; Academic Affairs
Bill Tarutis	Faculty; Academic Affairs

### Working Group Charge

Analyze the extent to which Lackawanna College uses student learning assessment to demonstrate that students accomplish appropriate educational goals.

## VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

The institution's planning processes, resources, and structures are aligned with each other and are sufficient to fulfill its mission and goals, to continuously assess and improve its programs and services, and to respond effectively to opportunities and challenges.

<b>Working Group Members</b>	<b>Title &amp; College Department</b>
<b>Standard VI</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Stephanie Decker &amp; Katie Michaels</b>	
Enrollment Rep.	Enrollment
Kristen McNally	Director of Kiesendahl School of Hospitality; Academic Affairs
Marc Gonzalez	Director of Cyber Security Program; Academic Affairs
Leslie Tarchak	Director of Budgets & External Reporting; Business Office
Linda Durso	Purchasing Agent; Business Office
Ann Kuwik	Associate Director of Financial Aid; Student Financial Services

### Working Group Charge

Analyze the extent to which Lackawanna College’s planning processes, resources, and structures are aligned with each other and are sufficient to fulfill its mission and goals.

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## VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration

The institution is governed and administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission and goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, and the other constituencies it serves. Even when supported by or affiliated with governmental, corporate, religious, educational system, or other unaccredited organizations, the institution has education as its primary purpose, and it operates as an academic institution with appropriate autonomy.

<b>Working Group Members</b>	<b>Title &amp; College Department</b>
<b>Standard VII</b>	
<b>Co-Chairs – Emy Kurilla &amp; Kris Liebegott</b>	
Lori Walsh	Executive Assistant/Secretary to the Board; Office of the President
Steve Krieger	Human Resources Business Partner; Human Resources
Erin Gill	Academic Advisor; Center Staff
Julie Cote	Faculty; Academic Affairs
Tasha Saint-Louis	Academic Advisor; Student Success
Sara Grande	Assistant Director of Enrollment; Enrollment
Lawrence Pugliese	Faculty & Division Chairperson; Academic Affairs Lackawanna College Education Association President
Kelly Schneider	Faculty; Academic Affairs

## Working Group Charge

Analyze the extent to which Lackawanna College is governed and administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission and goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, and the other constituencies it serves.

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If you have any questions or comments regarding Lackawanna College's accreditation or self-study process, please e-mail [selfstudy@lackawanna.edu](mailto:selfstudy@lackawanna.edu)

For more information about the accreditation process, please visit [www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)

**Middle States Commission on Higher Education**

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