

Carnegie Mellon University

Institutional Accreditation

FAST FACTS: CMU's Reaccreditation Process with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

THE PURPOSE OF REACCREDITATION

To maintain accreditation through MSCHE, Carnegie Mellon must undergo a reaccreditation process every eight years. This process includes a comprehensive Self-Study based on institution-wide analyses and engagement that will culminate in a peer review visit and assessment.

CMU is currently conducting the Self-Study process to assess and evaluate current educational and operational practices and outcomes. Compiling information, evidence, and community feedback allows for an inclusive, data-driven approach to supporting findings and recommendations in the Self-Study report, which will be submitted and peer-reviewed during the 2026-2027 academic year.

WHY REACCREDITATION MATTERS

- ❖ Educational Best Practice: The process ensures we live up to our legacy of providing a world-class educational experience and that we meet our own expectations while demonstrating alignment with requirements and standards of practice.
- ❖ Institutional Improvement: Community feedback is used judiciously in the overall process to identify issues and serve as a catalyst for iterative change at CMU.
- ❖ Financial Prerequisite: An institution must be accredited for students to receive federal financial aid and for the institution to receive certain federal research grants.
- ❖ Career and Professional Value: Many employers only hire graduates from accredited institutions or offer their employees tuition assistance. State boards require students to attend accredited institutions to sit for some licensure exams.
- ❖ Reputation and Partnerships: Internationally, other learning institutions and public entities seek out accredited institutions for partnerships, while domestically, the reaccreditation process raises awareness of key elements of the CMU experience among external peers.
- ❖ Value of Higher Education: The ability to demonstrate measurable outcomes and a commitment to improvement reinforces the value of a higher education degree.

You can find more details on www.cmu.edu/accreditation/reaccreditation/index.html.