

# Why Middle States Matters

**T**he ancient Greeks' exhortation "know thyself" reflects the necessity of self-examination in the lives of not just individuals, but dynamic institutions like LaGuardia. Through this process we learn to identify our strengths and challenges, our successes, and where opportunities for growth lie. But change based on self-knowledge alone is impossible; a plan, followed by action, is imperative.

LaGuardia's Middle States accreditation process now underway is our chance to discover what works and what needs some work in every area of the College –from academic programs to administrative practices– so we can continue to expand our legacy as a bold and innovative institution of higher learning and our students can continue to reap the tangible benefits and financial resources of accreditation.

Right now, there are nearly 140 faculty and staff engaged in collecting data and preparing the self-study analysis. We've created a website, [www.laguardia.edu/middlestates](http://www.laguardia.edu/middlestates) to explain how the process works and to share our progress and our final report with the entire College community. We'll also be reaching out to you via →

## Did you know?

**IN 2009**, the College's governance plan was restructured for the first time since 1978, in part as a result of recommendations included in LaGuardia's 2002 Middle States report. How the Senate assesses and votes on curriculum changes, the streamlining of governance plan updates through by-laws and amendments, and providing for a cohort of 12 student senators and 12 faculty senators from each academic department were among the newly implemented initiatives.

## Middle States Commission's Fourteen Standards

Our self-study will provide an assessment of LaGuardia's foundation, systems, resources and success based on the 14 standards created by the Middle States Commission:

### Our Foundation

Standard 1:  
Mission & Goals

Standard 6:  
Integrity

### Our Systems

Standard 2:  
Planning, Resource Allocation, & Instructional Renewal

Standard 4:  
Leadership & Governance

Standard 7:  
Institutional Assessment

Standard 14:  
Assessment of Student Learning

### Our Resources

Standard 3:  
Institutional Resources

Standard 5:  
Administration

Standard 9:  
Student Support Services

Standard 10:  
Faculty

### Our Successes

Standard 8:  
Student Admissions & Retention

Standard 11:  
Educational Offerings

Standard 12:  
General Education

Standard 13:  
Related Educational Activities

## Middle States Timeline

### Stages of the Self-Study

#### 2010 - Spring 2011

September 29:	Self Study Kickoff Event Working Groups conduct research and involve college constituencies
March-April:	Working Groups and Core Team create first draft of reports
April-May:	Preliminary findings shared with campus

#### Summer 2011

Core Team and Steering Committee edit Working Group Reports into Draft Self-Study Report

#### Fall 2011

Draft Self-Study Report shared with campus constituencies  
Revised Draft Self-Study Report submitted to External Review Team Chair  
External Review Team Chair conducts Preliminary Site Visit (four months prior to site visit)

#### Spring 2012

	Steering Committee and Core Team finalize Self-Study Report
February/March:	Final draft of Self-Study Report submitted to External Review Team (six weeks prior to site visit)
April:	External Review Team conducts site visit External Review Team submits evaluation report to Middle States

#### Fall 2012

November: Middle States Commission acts on External Review Team recommendation

→ Groupwise and through in-person presentations at departmental meetings to keep you informed every step of the way and, most importantly, aware of this College-wide opportunity for growth.

The timing couldn't be better, either. As we approach our 40th year of opening the doors to an affordable, quality college education to students from all over the world, our work on Middle States will provide us with the knowledge we need to refine the pedagogies we've created to improve our graduation, retention and basic skills pass rates, as well as motivate us to continue to dare to do more in pursuit of excellence.

This periodic self-examination process gives every member of the LaGuardia community a part to play in our two-year self-study, and a voice in shaping the College over the next decade. Providing evidence of our accomplishments and documenting how we assess our projects are vital components in the Middle States process, which, if done right, should have a beneficial impact on the College. Many of us may not realize, for instance, that the findings of LaGuardia's previous accreditation reviews have played an integral role in shaping the College's strategic plan.

The feedback of the entire College community on the eventual drafts of our Middle States report –not just that of members of the Steering Committee, Core Team and Working Groups engaged in the data collection and analysis phases of the project, but of faculty, staff, and students alike– will help ensure the picture of LaGuardia that we paint for the Middle States Commission is as inclusive, vibrant and compelling as the College itself.

### Learn More

To learn more about LaGuardia's Middle States accreditation process, visit [www.laguardia.edu/middlestates](http://www.laguardia.edu/middlestates), or contact **Professor Gordon Tapper**, Steering Committee Chair, at **ext. 5669**, or email [gtapper@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:gtapper@lagcc.cuny.edu).

For more information

For more information on the Middle States Commission of Higher Education, visit [www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org).



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

