



accreditation is a continuous process:

Accreditation requires a school to establish and implement a 5-year improvement plan based upon its vision of the future. The accreditation cycle allows for self-assessment, identifying areas of strength and areas for program improvement, insight and perspective from the evaluation team, as well as regular staff assessment of progress during the intervening years between full self-studies.



“MSA’s expert knowledge in the post-secondary education industry is outstanding. Being accredited by such an organization is validation of our professionalism and excellence through meeting and exceeding the 12 Standards of Excellence.”

Karen H. Brey, Vice President, Director of Career Services,
ACI Medical & Dental School



Contact Us and Start
the Accreditation Process Today!

WHY ACCREDITATION?

Middle States Association Commissions
on Elementary and Secondary Schools

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For Career and Technical Education | www.msa-cess.org



a legacy of over
130 years

The Middle States Association is a worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over **130 years**, Middle States has been helping school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development and advance student achievement. With more than **2,600 accredited schools** and school systems in **50 states** and more than **100 countries**, the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools is proud of its continuing legacy and its ongoing innovations to meet the challenges of improving education in the 21st century.

ac • cred • i • ta • tion (n)

Accreditation is a self-evaluation process that schools voluntarily use to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. The standards examine schools in a holistic way, supplementing student-testing data to provide a more complete measure of a school's performance and chart a strategic and realistic course for continuous improvement.

why should your school be accredited by Middle States?

Middle States accreditation:

- Examines the entire career and technical school—its philosophy and goals, its community, its programs and services, its facilities and financial stability.
- Measures quality through performance criteria such as program completion rate, student job placement rate, licensing examination pass rate, and student loan default rate.
- Provides a Self-Study process focused on examination, self-assessment, reflection, and deliberation directly from the school's stakeholders.
- Supplies specific criteria for effective planning for growing and improving student performance.
- Manages school evolution through regular assessment, planning, implementation, and reassessment.
- Enables schools to participate in Title IV student loan programs

what is the career and technical institution approach?

Utilizing a specialized CTE protocol, Middle States offers a 10-year accreditation for career and technical schools that provide education and training to secondary and/or adult students. Middle States provides Institutional Accreditation to all programs within the school. As an authorized Regional Accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education, Middle States Accreditation allows schools to offer Title IV grants and loans to students.

how does the accreditation process work?

The process begins with self-study conducted by the school and requires input from a coalition of administrators, teachers, students, and community members. Following the self-study, a team of volunteer educators from Middle States accredited schools conducts an on-site peer review to observe school operations and interview various stakeholders. The team then makes its recommendation to Middle States, where it undergoes a multi-level review by some of the best educators in the field before being approved.

one size does not fit all

The Middle States Association's accreditation process respects the individual nature and character of each school. Although it is required that all career and technical schools meet the same Standards for Accreditation, there is sufficient flexibility within the Standards and protocols so that different schools can demonstrate they meet the Standards in different ways.

