

The [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#) formally reaccredited SUNY New Paltz at its meeting on November 17, 2016. As many of you know, Middle States requires its member institutions to conduct a periodic review and evaluation of institutional achievements and prospective analysis. In accord with this requirement, we submitted a Periodic Review Report (PRR) to Middle States on June 1, 2016, five years after our decennial self-study and prior to the next full evaluation in 2020-2021.

Congratulations to every member of the College community for your work and accomplishments that resulted in Middle States' positive assessment of our college. Special recognition and thanks to the College-wide Periodic Review Committee, which led the PRR effort. Committee members are Thomas Albrecht, Anne Balant, Robin Cohen-La-Valle, L. David Eaton, Deb Gould, Michael Rosenberg, Surinder Tikoo, Lucy Walker, and Julie Walsh. A particular note of thanks to Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney (Chair), for her leadership of this effort.

The formal language of the Commission's resolution is:

*"To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. To commend the institution for the quality of the Periodic Review Report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2020-21."*

The reviewers' preliminary report on our Periodic Review Report highlighted many of our strengths as well as areas for further attention and action. Middle States remains very focused on continued improvement in the assessment of student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

The PRR reviewers' report included five commendations. These read,

"The Commission should commend New Paltz as the report is well written and documented in such a way that it is easy to read. The report also included information for each suggestion and recommendation. Progress to date is adequately documented."

"New Paltz has stabilized its administration with the hiring of full time permanent employees (e.g. President), thus making a statement to its constituents on a commitment to continued success. Further, the strategic plan has set the continued course of action for the next several years (2018)."

"The commitment to the philosophy to teaching as being hands-on, collaborative, and inquiry based is worthy of highlighting. This also takes into consideration the use of high impact practices and best practices in higher education."

"The increased availability of study abroad opportunities is a plus for New Paltz. Underrepresented students will greatly benefit from this opportunity."

"Assessment reporting has been outlined and the report indicates that the structures are working and improving student learning outcomes. As well, course and program development are influenced by the assessment process."

We received no recommendations or mandates from Middle States to take progressive action towards continued standards of excellence. Nonetheless, we will continue our pursuit of excellence—even as we celebrate Middle States' reaffirmation of our accreditation, our accomplishments, and our continued institutional progress.