

MSCHE Visiting Team Chair Named

Dr. Christopher Domes, president of Neumann University in Aston, Pennsylvania, is the chair of GCU's MSCHE Visiting Team. The visiting team will evaluate Georgian Court University on its compliance with the MSCHE Standards of Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. This evaluation includes the reading of the GCU self-study, reviewing its documentation of the Standards and Requirements, as well as holding meetings with the various constituents of the university. Dr. Domes will be conducting a pre-visit on campus on October 17, 2018, and the visiting team will be on campus March 24–27, 2019. We look forward to these visits and sharing our learnings about the current status of GCU as found through the self-study process. The report from the visiting team will be forwarded to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, who then will determine continued accreditation status for the university.

Purpose of a Self-Study

The purpose of the decennial self-study is to achieve re-affirmation of accreditation by showing compliance with the [MSCHE Requirements of Affiliation \(15\) and Standards of Accreditation \(7\)](#). This is accomplished through the narrative of the institution's self-study, a Documentation Roadmap showing compliance with the Seven Standards and their criteria, and documentation of compliance with federal regulations (Title III and Distance Learning). Georgian Court University has been a member of MSCHE since 1922. Additional information on its accreditation status can be found at: <http://www.msche.org/Documents/SAS/244/Statement%20of%20Accreditation%20Status.htm>

“The Commission is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources.”

—MSCHE
<http://msche.org/>



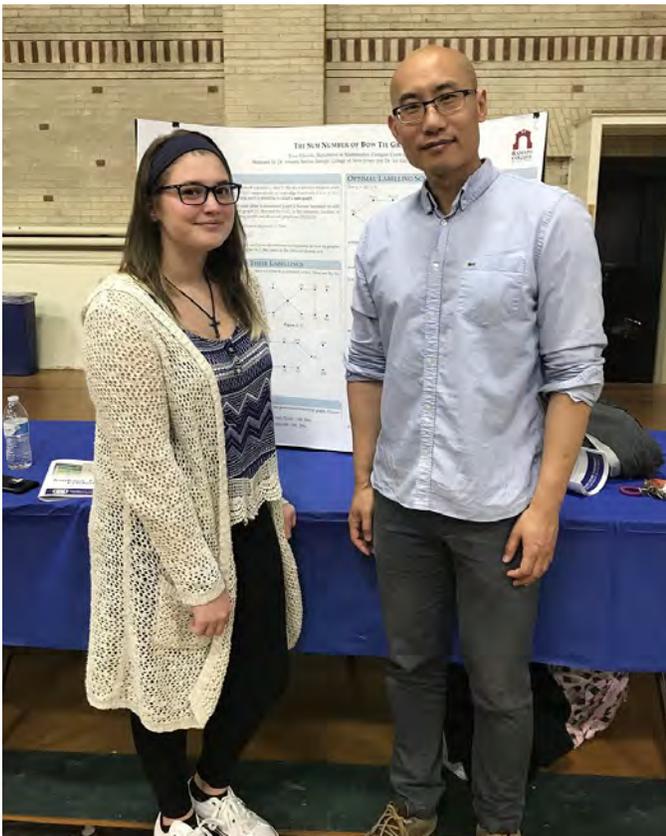
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GCU Mission Assessment

As a member of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE), Georgian Court University will also be conducting a peer review using the Catholic, Mercy Mission Accountability Process parallel to the MSCHE Self-Study process. The findings and recommendations from the GCU Self-Study and Standard I: Mission and Goals will inform this report.

This assessment process will also bring a team of visitors to the GCU campus in Spring 2019. The campus looks forward to welcoming them shortly after its MSCHE reaffirmation of accreditation visit.



Key Highlights of the GCU Self-Study

Beginning in Fall 2016, the GCU Steering Committee for MSCHE Reaffirmation of Accreditation has been gathering documentation related to GCU's compliance with the seven Standards of Accreditation. This documentation served as the backbone of the Self-Study. GCU's Self-Study is organized into seven chapters, one per standard.

In Chapter 1: Mission and Goals, GCU shows how its mission and Mercy core values underpin all of the university's efforts, including its most recent strategic planning process. The 2018 Strategic Compass's four points of emphasis each begin with the phrase "mission fulfillment through." In addition, Chapter 2: Ethics and Integrity, demonstrates that ethics and integrity also permeate the Strategic Compass. Mission was also the key driver of the Bridge General Education Program, initiated in Fall 2016.

Chapter 3: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience, Chapter 4: Support of the Student Experience, and Chapter 5: Educational Effectiveness Assessment considered GCU's main purpose of providing postsecondary education in the Catholic Mercy tradition. The documentation of these chapters highlighted the various programs that support students meeting their degree-

completion goals, within the Mercy values of justice, integrity, compassion, service, and respect. Also important are the programs related to satisfactory academic progress and meeting the needs of under-resourced students.

Chapters 6: Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement and Chapter 7: Governance, Leadership, and Administration considered the functional areas of the university's structures to support its learning mission. The organization of the university and its effectiveness in providing services is discussed in detail. The university's resources and program for continuous improvement were outlined in these chapters.

Research Week 2018 celebrated student-faculty research, a key part of the student experience at Georgian Court.

Survey Says...

Evidence of meeting the requirements of the MSCHE Standards is found in survey feedback and results. During the 2017–2018 academic year, GCU conducted the following surveys of student engagement and satisfaction:

- Ruffalo Noel Levitz College Student Inventory, Mid-Year Student Assessment, and Second-Year Student Assessment to all incoming first-year and transfer students (479 responses)
- Ruffalo Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory to all undergraduates (261 responses)
- Student Instructional Report II in selected courses, all semesters
- Graduate Exit Survey (353 participants)
- Times Higher Education U.S. Student Survey (50 students selected)

In addition, many programs and units of the university conducted surveys for student satisfaction and evaluation of services. The data from these surveys are used for specific program improvement, and are part of unit assessments.



School of Business and Digital Media students networked with local employers at the Fifth Annual Business to Student Connector.

Connections to the Strategic Compass

The institution's self-study is the opportunity to tell its unique story, albeit aligned with demonstration of how the institution meets the seven Standards of Accreditation. To that end, each institution defines its strategic initiatives and includes these initiatives within its self-study. GCU's strategic initiatives are the Strategic Compass Points of Emphasis.

During the 2017–2018 academic year, GCU developed its Strategic Compass with various tactics and a dashboard of key performance indicators. This was an iterative process involving many of GCU's constituents. The compass points and tactics have been aligned with the unit assessment goals and plans submitted by all areas of the university. The Strategic Compass emphasizes the student experience in all its forms and aspects.

The 2018 GCU Strategic Compass Points of Emphasis are:

- Mission Fulfillment Through Academic Excellence
- Mission Fulfillment Through an Exceptional Student Experience
- Mission Fulfillment Through Revenue Generation and Diversification
- Mission Fulfillment Through Operational Efficiency and Resource Utilization

GCU Highlights Since the 2014 PRR

The introduction of the GCU Self-Study notes some of the major events since its 2009 decennial self-study and the subsequent 2014 Periodic Review Report (PRR) to MSCHE. The following are the key happenings at The Court since 2014:

2013: Implemented full coeducation for day undergraduate program, adding men's athletic teams and housing for men

2014–2016: Completed nearly \$8.5 million in campus improvements funded by New Jersey's Building Our Future Bond Program

2015: Inaugurated Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., as GCU's ninth president

2014–present: Developed new and expanded academic programs: partnership with New Seminary, M.A. in Criminal Justice and Human Rights, B.S. in Finance, B.S. in Management, B.S. in Marketing, B.S. in Health Sciences, and B.A. in Health Profession Studies

2016: Implemented Bridge General Education Program

2016–2017: Launched GCU@Hazlet and GCU@Cumberland satellite locations and partnered with K–12 Alliance (KTA) at off-site locations throughout New Jersey

2017: Named a New Jersey College of Distinction, Catholic College of Distinction, and College of Distinction in Business, Education, and Nursing; ranked #39 on *Washington Monthly's* list of Best Bang for the Buck schools; and became a Strive for College partner, demonstrating a commitment to enrolling and graduating low-income and first-generation college students

2018: Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* among its Best Regional Colleges/Universities (North)

Contact Us

The GCU MSCHE Self-Study is under the direction of the GCU Office of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation.

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