

Invitation for Comments

For the past two and a half years, PSU has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the eleven [accreditation standards](#) as established by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), in preparation for a comprehensive evaluation visit from a team representing NEASC's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education in November 2013. The eleven standards are like

- Mission
- Planning and Evaluation
- Organization and Governance
- Academic Program
- Faculty
- Students
- Library and Information Resources
- Physical and Technological Resources
- Financial Resources
- Public Disclosure
- Integrity

Over 50 faculty, staff, students and administrators, comprising the steering committee and subcommittees have drafted chapters in response to each standard. As part of the self-study process we would like to invite the campus community to review the draft self-study report and to provide comment to the committee members of each standard. In addition there are short videotaped summaries of key findings/projections for viewing.

The Commission requires for each standard that we provide a *description* of how we are addressing the standards, an *appraisal* of how well we are doing with particular attention to areas in which we would like to improve or expand our attention, and finally *projections* which identifying actions that PSU intends to take to address areas in which we can improve within an identifiable timeframe. To view the video summaries of the standards and/or the self-study drafts, go to go.plymouth.edu/neascselfstudy. We are limited to a total of 100 pages of text in the self-study and therefore, responses must be concise and stay focused directly on addressing the specific standards.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education http://cihe.neasc.org/about_accreditation/ is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 240 institutions in the six-state New England region. Plymouth State University has been accredited by the Commission since 1955 and had its last full review in Fall 2003.

An evaluation team will visit us in November 2013 to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will make a recommendation to the Commission regarding a continuing accreditation status for PSU. Following the review process, the Commission will take final action regarding continued accreditation. A report will be issued to President Steen highlighting any areas of concern or areas on which the Commission wishes us to focus our attention as we continue to strive to be the best we can be.

One of the major goals of the self-study is to reflect upon ourselves in relation to the standards set forth by our peers and to engage in a process of continuous evaluation and improvement. Therefore, we would like as many in our campus community as possible to participate in our self-study by providing feedback on the draft self-study, so that it is reflective of how we view ourselves and how well we are doing. Questions and comments may be addressed to psu-neasc@plymouth.edu. **Thank you in advance for taking the time to read the self-study or review the video summaries of appraisals and projections sharing your questions or comments.**

Nancy Betchart,
NEASC Liaison and Chair, Self-Study Steering Committee