

Middle States Reaccreditation Site Visit Guide for Students

As students, you are key members of the IC community and your thoughts, opinions, and experiences are invaluable. We hope you will embrace this opportunity to engage in our reaccreditation process so that IC can grow and thrive as an institution. This guide will provide an overview of the reaccreditation process and how you can participate during our upcoming Middle States evaluation site visit (March 29 – April 1, 2026).

Middle States and the Importance of Reaccreditation

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education, or MSCHE (Mish-key) for short is IC's accrediting organization. MSCHE is responsible for affirming IC's educational quality, institutional effectiveness, and ability to distribute federal student financial aid.

The Reaccreditation Process

Every eight-years colleges and universities must undergo a comprehensive review to maintain their accreditation. This process is divided into two parts, preparation of a self-study report and the site visit. For the past three years, IC faculty, staff, and students have reviewed and analyzed data and evidence to write a comprehensive self-study report to demonstrate how IC meets the seven accreditation standards. During the site visit, a team of peer reviewers will meet with members of the community to confirm, affirm, and clarify the information in our self-study report.

How can students participate in the MSCHE Site Visit?

TLDR: Participate in open forums, bring your IC spirit, and be honest.

Our priority during the site visit is to verify, clarify, and amplify the information provided in our self-study report. The Site Visit Team will provide a list of individuals and groups (including students) that they wish to meet with. If you are asked to participate in one of these meetings due to your role on campus, the Reaccreditation Team will contact you directly and provide guidance on how to best prepare. But regardless, of your role on campus, you are encouraged to attend open forums for all community members. This is an important opportunity to help share the IC story. The best way to prepare is to be informed by reading the self-study report. The introduction of the self-study report can help guide your reading so that you can focus on the areas of Ithaca College that you are most interested or curious about.

What happens next?

After the site visit, the evaluation team will issue their report. This report will address any areas of concerns and opportunities for growth for IC as an accredited institution. Furthermore, our own exhaustive self-study and the feedback from our evaluation team will provide guidance as we develop IC's next strategic plan.

