

Medical Sciences Campus

University of Puerto Rico

MSCHE Self - Study Visit Information Capsule

MSC Self-Study Report Executive Summary

Upon completion of the comprehensive participatory process described in the 2019 Self-Study Design, the campus community reaffirms that the institution complies with the seven standards for accreditation and the fifteen requirements of affiliation. The MSC is confident that the current financial scenario is leveraged by the implementation of academic and administrative efficiency measures that makes it possible to continue to carry out its mission and goals while sustaining the excellence of its academic offerings.

Similar to other public (and private) higher education institutions in the United States, the University of Puerto Rico is experiencing financial challenges that extends beyond the impact of natural disasters (2017) and the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to date). To meet these challenges, the MSC has drawn on its single most powerful cohesive force, which is the members of the university community sense of mission and vision, coupled with the commitment to fulfill the stated institutional goals. The MSC is committed to engage in assessment processes that leads the institution towards continuous quality improvement, institutional effectiveness, and effective management of student learning. The campus is accomplishing this.

Standard I. Mission and Goals demonstrates that the institution's mission statement provides a framework for prioritized budgeting and planning, and ongoing self-evaluation. The plan's goals are clearly stated and trace a roadmap for achievement of the mission. The mission and goals are still relevant, as demonstrated by the ongoing pursue of academic excellence, increased research and technology, and self-sustainability.

Standard II. Ethics and Integrity evidence that all the operations of the MSC are guided by ethics and integrity. The MSC is faithful to its mission and gives priority to a diverse and respectful campus climate. The policies and procedures provide for fair and impartial practices where conflicts of interest are not accepted. There is a clearly defined due process to handle misconduct and conflict. The institution meets all local and federal regulations.

Standard III. Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience describes the numerous and diverse academic offerings of the MSC, which are congruent and aligned with the institutional mission, and characterized by academic rigor and coherence and with higher education expectations. Almost all the schools of the campus, as well as the academic programs, that can be subjected to accreditation are so accredited by the corresponding professional agencies. The faculty is well-qualified, multidisciplinary, with strong teaching competencies and lines of research and are fully committed to the students and the health of the community they serve. In support of the many student learning opportunities, the institution takes pride on its robust technology and information systems infrastructure, a network of collaborations with community-based organizations and MSC clinical services, and numerous research and training projects.

Standard IV. Support of the Student Experience affirms that the MSC always admits only the most qualified students, has a rigorous admissions process, which is consistent with the institution's mission and vision. The MSC offers administrative and academic support to students from the application process, through the years of study, until graduation. There are multiple support services for at risk students including tutoring, academic counseling, mentoring, and personal counseling. In addition, the wellbeing of the students is a priority as demonstrated by the structured activities that complement their academic experience.

Accreditation: The Future of Innovation in Time of Crisis

2020 - 2021



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Standard V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment demonstrates that the MSC has degree and program goals that are aligned with the MSC competency domains, relevant educational experiences, and the institutional mission. The campus implemented a system of organized systematic assessment processes and continues to promote and strengthen a culture in which institutional and student learning are assessed campus wide and at the individual schools. To do so, the institution has developed an assessment culture, with plans that have led to a full cycle of findings that have been and continue to be used to standardize decision-making processes. Programs use assessment results to improve and modify the curricula and the students' learning experiences. Students express satisfaction with the knowledge, skills, and values acquired on campus, which is ultimately one of the institution's goals. Continuous monitoring of outcomes is a priority to assure that all the programs stay focused on the implementation, evaluation, and success indicators of their plans. Assessment has truly become an integral part of the institutional culture.

Standard VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement reinforces that, the MCS has a financial base that is adequate to support the institutional purpose and programs and ensure financial stability. The planning processes and resources are aligned and have demonstrated to be sufficient to execute and support the institutional goals, objectives, and strategies while also allowing the campus to respond to opportunities and challenges, such as, the COVID-19 Pandemic. To adjust to both the reduction of local government funds allocated to the UPR system and the critical financial scenario that the island is experiencing, the MSC has implemented various cost containment measures and increasing external funding sources. This is one of the key institutional priorities. The MSC continues to be successful and competitive in securing external funding, both through grant awards and increase number of clinical services sites where faculty provides services, along with new sales of services, such as, online non-degree granting academic programs, which together account for 70% of the institution's total budget for FY 2021, allowing the institution to secure its operations and become less dependent on state funds (30% allocation). The campus community is aware that the financial crisis of Puerto Rico is not over, and that financial efficiency must be sustained. This standard also discusses the compensation for professional services, strategies for obtaining additional grant funding, and possible mid- and long-term measures to help offset any future budget reductions. An example of alignment of planning and budgeting is the enhanced information services and technology infrastructures, both of which are up-to-date and adequately support the academic and administrative operations as well as distance education.

Standard VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration summarizes the UPR system and the campus infrastructure. Faculty and students participate at all levels of decision-making bodies (department, school, campus, University Board, Board of Trustees). The UPR and MSC system of governance effectively and ethically serves its constituents, and works to fulfill its mission, vision, and strategic goals.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the site visit, please [submit your question here](#).

