

Report to the
Faculty, Administration, Trustees, and Students
of

*York College CUNY
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11451*

by
A Visitor/Team Representing the
Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Prepared After a
Follow-Up Visit to the Institution on:
March 19-20, 2019

The Visitor(s):
*Dr. Joanne Coté-Bonanno, Chair, Montclair State University,
Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Assessment*

*Dr. Beena Sukurmaran, Team member, Rowan University,
Vice President for Research*

Working with the Visitor(s):
*Dr. Kushnood Haq, Vice President
Middle States Commission on Higher Education*

At the Time of the Visit:
President/Chief Executive Officer:
Dr. Marcia V. Keizs

Chief Academic Officer:
Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, Provost

Chair of the Governing Board:
Mr. William C. Thompson, Jr., Chairperson
The Office of the Secretary
205 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Present at the visit:
Dr. Vita C. Rabinowitz, Interim Chancellor
Mr. Charles Shorter, Trustee

I. Institutional Overview

York College is a senior institution of The City University of New York (CUNY). It was founded in 1966 as a commuter liberal arts and sciences institution. Today, the institution has expanded their mission to serve the Queens community, taking a significant role in the urban renewal of the surrounding area.

The College's mission as a public higher education institution is "dedicated to enriching lives and enabling students to grow as passionate, engaged learners with the confidence to realize their intellectual and human potential as individuals and global citizens."

York College is organized into the schools of Arts and Sciences, Business and Information Systems, and Health Sciences and Professional Programs offering undergraduate liberal arts education, programs in business and healthcare professions, and four programs at the Master's level. The College's diverse student population of more than 8,000 students are enrolled in 65 undergraduate majors in liberal arts and sciences, business, education, social work and the health professions.

Almost half of the students are foreign-born and over 82% of the student population are from federally recognized minority groups. The majority of York College students (61%) come from households that earn less than \$30,000 annually.

II. Nature and Conduct of the Visit

Follow up visit for the monitoring report in regard to Requirements of Affiliation # 8 and 10 and Standard V Educational Effectiveness Assessment as a result of the June 2018 action of the Commission:

To warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard V (Educational Effectiveness Assessment), Requirements of Affiliation 8 and 10. To note that the institution remains accredited while on warning. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance to two years. To request a monitoring report due March 1, 2019 documenting that the institution has achieved and can sustain compliance with Standard V and Requirements of Affiliation 8 and 10, including but not limited to (1) organized and systematic assessments that evaluate the extent of student achievement of institutional and program level goals, (2) assessment of student achievement and communication of results to stakeholders, (3) further development and implementation of assessment of general education, and (4) use of assessment results for the improvement of educational effectiveness (Standard V and Requirements of Affiliation 8 and 10). A small team visit will follow submission of the monitoring report. To direct a prompt liaison guidance visit to discuss Commission's expectations. Upon reaffirmation of accreditation, the next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2026-2027.

The team met with the President, Provost and College Administrators including members of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Institutional Effectiveness Committee. Additional sessions were conducted with faculty and staff, including members of the Committees for General Education Assessment, Academic Assessment and Administrative Educational and Student Support Services. The visiting team also met with the CUNY Interim Chancellor, a CUNY Trustee and a diverse group of York College students.

Documents reviewed before and during the visit included:

The Monitoring Report and supporting documents such as assessment plans, templates, process and evidence for each of the following areas:

- Academic Assessment
- Academic and Educational Support Services
- General Education

The team also reviewed Strategic Action Planning documents and Institutional Learning Outcomes(ILO) documents and workshop materials.

III. Affirmation of Compliance with Requirements of Affiliation Under Review

Based on a review of the monitoring report and appendices, interviews, and other institutional documents, the team affirms that the institution continues to meet the Requirements of Affiliation under review.

IV. Commendations and Summary of Institutional Strengths

The Institution is to be commended for the institutional efforts of the administration, faculty and staff to develop systematic college wide assessment processes.

This includes:

- Professional development through workshops and committees that are composed of cross-institutional administrators, faculty and staff.
- Effective communication processes that keep faculty, staff and students aware of the ongoing assessment activities.
- A very inclusive process that encourages and engages faculty, staff and administrators in the ongoing work of assessment.
- The President and the Provost for their “call to action” and their continuing support of the infrastructure.
- Faculty, staff and administrators for their responsiveness to the call for action leading to the demonstrated progress toward the building of an assessment culture through an infrastructure of assessment oversight committees.
- Engaging the primary stakeholders’ investment in the processes through a shared governance structure that includes the college faculty, staff, administration and students.
- The strength of your student body and their clear commitment to the success and the future of York College.

- The clear commitment of York College to community engagement and partnerships.

V. Compliance with Accreditation Standard V Under Review

Standard V Institutional Effectiveness

The visitors' judgment is that, at this time, the institution appears to be *in compliance* with this standard.

Summary of Key Evidence and Developments: The Monitoring Report, appendices and interviews with administrators, faculty, staff and students provide documentation of process, procedures and implementation strategies that led the team to this conclusion.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to allocate appropriate resources needed to sustain the College's assessment infrastructure and activities for the long-term.
2. Create a system to assess the effectiveness of assessment framework, processes, and activities. Use that information to identify gaps and take corrective actions to make the overall assessment process more sustainable.
3. Develop an improved internal system of documenting assessment results, action plans and follow-up strategies.

Suggestions

1. Continue to invest in faculty and staff professional development through campus-wide workshops and external conferences on assessment and accreditation.
2. Include the purpose and description of the infrastructure of assessment in the courses Prof 101 and Prof 201 for new and mid-level faculty to continue to build the assessment culture.

VI. Summary of Compliance

Based on a review of the monitoring report, appendices, interviews, and other documents reviewed during the visit, the team draws the following conclusions.

The faculty, staff and administration are making significant strides in developing a culture of assessment and college wide systematic processes that indicate compliance with the requirements of affiliation 8 and 10 and Standard V. It is important that these efforts continue and are sustainable for the future.