



# VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

## Middle States Self-Study Community Forum

February 11, 2020



# Agenda

- Overview of the Self-Study Process
- Villanova's Approach to the Self-Study
- Self-Study Timeline
- Questions



# Overview of the Self-Study Process



# What is the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)?

- One of six regional accrediting bodies recognized by the USDE and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
- Regional accreditation is a means of self-regulation through peer evaluation adopted by the higher education community, examining the institution as a whole, rather than specific programs within. It is intended to strengthen and sustain higher education, make it worthy of public confidence, and minimize the scope of external control. It ensures that an institution remains eligible for Title IV financial assistance funding.
- The Middle States region includes DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, and PA, plus American territories/commonwealths and institutions outside US
- Over 525 accredited and candidate institutions; VU is one of 58 founding institutions in 1919



# Preamble

---

## Statement Regarding the Purpose of and Commitment to Accreditation

*by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education*

*An institution of higher education is a community dedicated to students, to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, to the study and clarification of values, and to the advancement of the society it serves. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), through accreditation, mandates that its member institutions meet rigorous and comprehensive standards, which are addressed in the context of the mission of each institution and within the culture of ethical practices and institutional integrity expected of accredited institutions. In meeting the quality standards of MSCHE accreditation, institutions earn accredited status, and this permits them to state with confidence: “Our students are well-served; society is well-served.”*



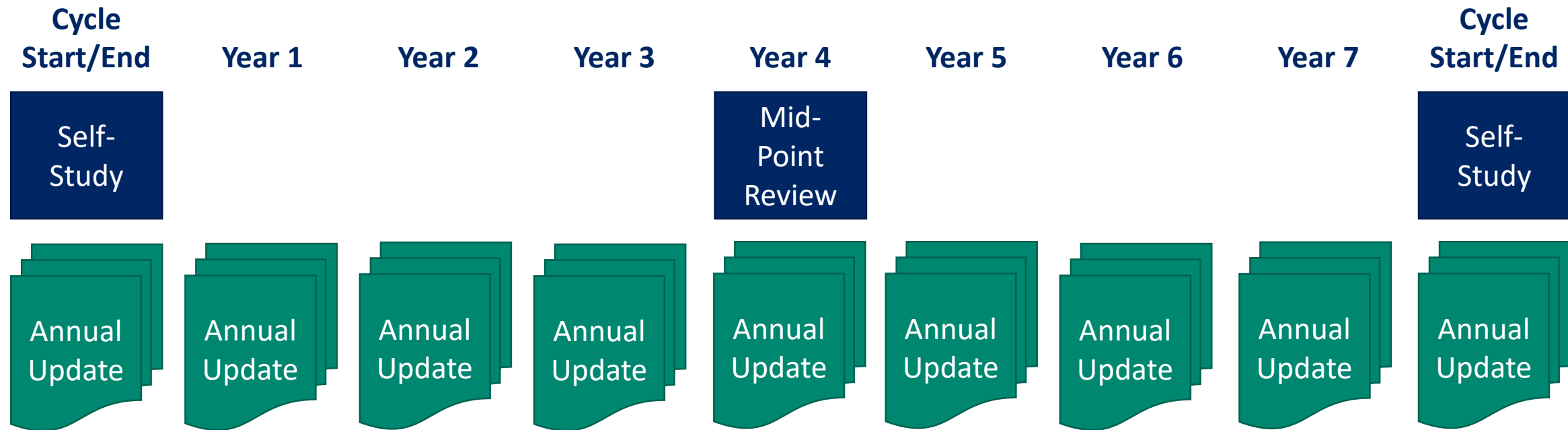
# Preamble

---

## Statement Regarding the Purpose of and Commitment to Accreditation *by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education*

*An institution of higher education is a community dedicated to students, to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, to the study and clarification of values, and to the advancement of the society it serves. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), through accreditation, mandates that its member institutions meet rigorous and comprehensive standards, which are addressed in the context of the mission of each institution and within the culture of ethical practices and institutional integrity expected of accredited institutions. In meeting the quality standards of MSCHE accreditation, institutions earn accredited status, and this permits them to state with confidence: “Our students are well-served; society is well-served.”*

# Middle States Accreditation Cycle



*Through this cycle, an institution demonstrates its commitment to continuous self-assessment and improvements.*

# Middle States Standards

- Standards of Accreditation have specific criteria to be addressed
- Requirements of Affiliation are also addressed through self-study and/or compliance review
- Self-Study Design links the self-study and standards to our institutional priorities, goals, and/or initiatives

**STANDARDS**  
*for Accreditation*  
*and*  
**REQUIREMENTS**  
*of Affiliation*

THIRTEENTH EDITION



# Middle States Standards

Standard I	Mission and Goals
Standard II	Ethics and Integrity
Standard III	Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience
Standard IV	Support of the Student Experience
Standard V	Educational Effectiveness Assessment
Standard VI	Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement
Standard VII	Governance, Leadership, and Administration



# Villanova's Approach to the Self-Study

# Steering Committee

- Self-Study Chairs (Jerusha Conner, Kevin Grubb, Jim Trainer)
- Self-Study Coordinator (Steve Sheridan)
- Working Group Chairs (Kathryn Getek Soltis, Teresa Boyer, Jean Lutes, Brian Galloway, Quinetta Roberson, Chris Kovolski, Kelly Welch)
- Members of the President's Cabinet (Craig Wheeland, Terry Nance)
- Member of the Board of Trustees (Fr. Joe Narog, OSA)
- Members of Faculty Congress (Jacky Huang, Nancy Sharts-Hopko)
- Member of University Staff Council (Ashley Leamon)
- Member of Alumni Board (Darla Wolfe)
- Members of Student Government Association (Emily Bermudez, Alexis Price, Tyler Schieda)
- Graduate/Professional Student Representatives (Matthew Ashcroft, Monika Chawla)
- Administrator from Office of University Communication and Marketing (Wendy Litzke)

# Working Groups

- Seven working groups, one for each Standard, each responsible for writing the chapter on their assigned Standard
- Each group was carefully constructed
  - Faculty, staff, and students
  - College
  - Expertise
  - Diversity, equity, and inclusion at the forefront
- 133 Villanovans serving on working groups



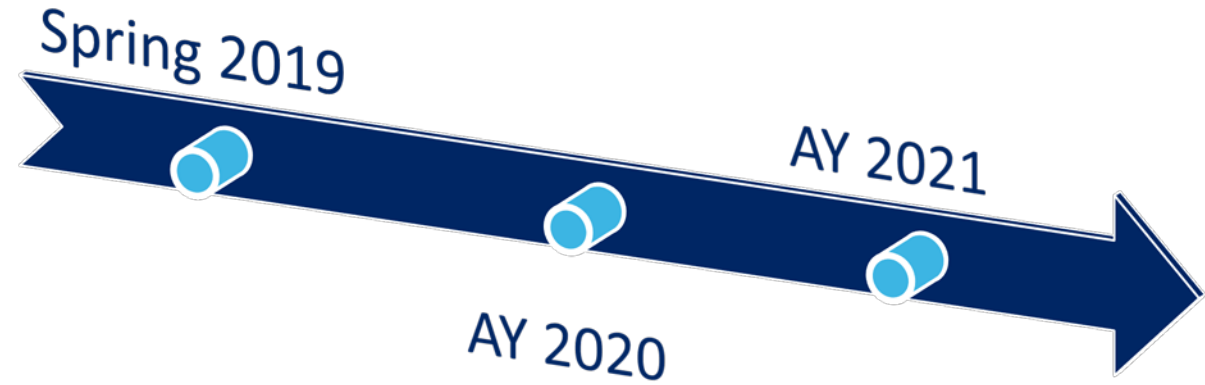
# Working Group Chairs & Vice Chairs

#	Topic	Chair	Vice Chair
1	Mission and Goals	Kathryn Getek Soltis	Rev. Robert Hagan, OSA
2	Ethics and Integrity	Teresa Boyer	Beth Vallen
3	Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience	Jean Lutes	Julie Pirsch
4	Support of the Student Experience	Brian Galloway	Millicent Gaskell
5	Educational Effectiveness Assessment	Quinetta Roberson	Vikram Iyengar
6	Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement	Christopher Kovolski	Narda Quigley
7	Governance, Leadership, and Administration	Kelly Welch	Raymond Duffy



# Intended Outcomes for the Self-Study

- We will demonstrate that Villanova University meets the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accreditation standards through a self-study grounded in evidence, marked by analysis of the evidence, and tempered by reflection about how we might most effectively learn from our conclusions to foster ongoing improvement within the spirit of our Augustinian and Catholic mission.
- We will engage in an inclusive and transparent self-appraisal process that seeks broad representation from the Villanova community and offers stakeholders opportunities to review and comment on the self-study throughout its development.
- Within the framework provided by MSCHE, we will examine key aspirations associated with our new Strategic Plan, especially concentrating on Villanova's readiness to implement such initiatives. In this context, we will suggest how we might allocate and invest University resources to capitalize on efforts taking place across the institution and identify opportunities for continuous improvement that advance our mission and goals.



# Self-Study Timeline





# Timeline: AY 2019-2020 (Fall/Spring)

May 2019	Villanova Self-Study Design Approved by Middle States
September, 2019	Initiate work of Standards Working Groups
October, 2019	Complete chapter draft outlines
December, 2019	Complete initial findings and develop interview protocol
January, 2020	Work with Liaison on selection of Team Chair
February, 2020	Hold Community Fora
March, 2020	Complete preliminary chapter drafts
April-May, 2020	Revise and resubmit chapter drafts
August, 2020	Post penultimate draft
September, 2020	Hold Second Community Fora; revise and submit final draft
November, 2020	Host visiting team chair: Father McShane
January, 2021	Submit final self-study report
Mar-Apr, 2021	Host MSCHE Team Visit
June-Nov 2021	Receive Accreditation Action

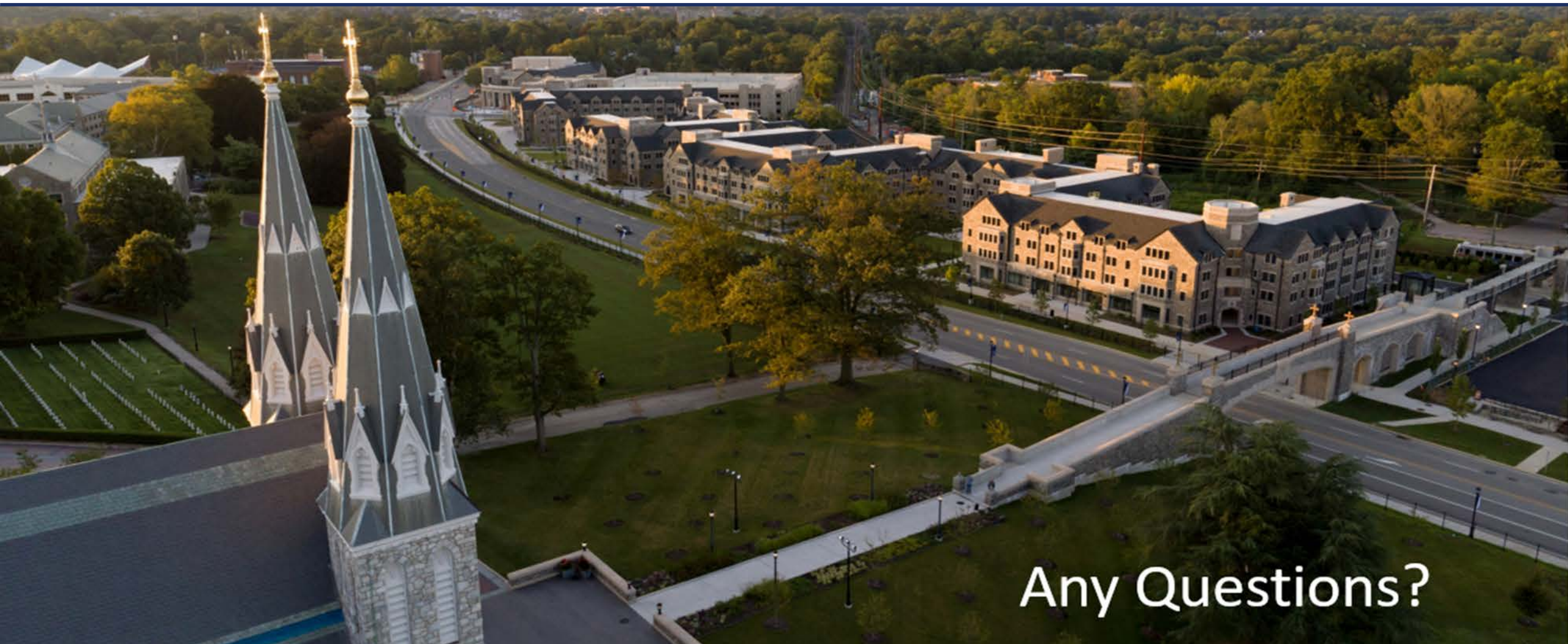


# Timeline

<b>Deliverables Timetable</b>	
<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Preliminary Chapter Draft	March 27, 2020
Penultimate Chapter Draft	May 18, 2020
Finalized Chapter Drafts	September 25, 2020
Finalized Self-Study	January 2021



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY  
Middle States Self-Study  
Community Forum  
February 11, 2020



Any Questions?

# Big Picture

## Middle States Standards

1. Mission & Goals
2. Ethics & Integrity
3. Student Learning Experience
4. Support for Student Experience
5. Educational Effectiveness Assessment
6. Planning, Resources, & Institutional Improvement
7. Governance, Leadership, & Administration

## Timeline

- Mar: First Draft
- Aug: Penultimate Draft
- Sept: Community Fora & Submission to Chair
- Nov: Chair Visit
- Jan: Submit Self-Study
- Mar/Apr: Team Visit

## Intended Outcomes

1. Demonstrate that VU meets the standards and receive re-affirmation of accreditation
2. Engage in a transparent and inclusive process
3. Suggest how to allocate, invest, and improve as an institution



# Middle States Requirements of Affiliation

Requirements of Affiliation		Demonstrate Compliance in...
Requirement 1	Authorization to operate	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 2	Institution is operational	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 3	Graduates one class before accreditation	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 4	Communicated with MSCHE in English	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 5	Compliance with government policies, regulations, and requirements	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 6	Compliance with MSCHE policies	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 7	Mission and Goals	Standard I
Requirement 8	Systematic evaluation of all programs	Standards III,IV,V,VI
Requirement 9	Rigor, coherence and assessment	Standards III,V
Requirement 10	Institutional planning	Standards I,III,IV,V,VI
Requirement 11	Financial resources	Standards VI
Requirement 12	Governance structure	Standards VII
Requirement 13	Governing board conflict of interest	Standards VII
Requirement 14	Governing board provides accurate information	Compliance Review Process
Requirement 15	Faculty	Standards III





Villanova University

# **STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW**

---

**2020-2030**



# Goals of the Strategic Plan

**ROOTED in our Augustinian Catholic Values.**

*We aspire to:*

- Maximize the Impact of our Augustinian Values
- Foster a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Community
- Build an Ever More Connected Values-Driven Community

**RESTLESS in our Desire to Ignite Change.**

*We aspire to:*

- Advance Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Create Dynamic Opportunities for Research and Scholarship
- Propel Villanovans on a Path of Lifelong Success

# Goals of the Strategic Plan

*As stewards of our University and the Augustinian academic tradition, we must position Villanova to achieve its potential and thrive—now and into the future.*

*To ensure our success, we must continue to invest in a wide range of infrastructure and priorities, including:*



Transforming our Academic Facilities



Extending the University's Commitment to Sustainability



Continuing to Invest in Leveraging Technology and Data/Analytics



Building the Necessary Financial Resources to Power our Strategic Plan

**STRENGTHENING our Foundation**



# Goals of the Self-Study

Institutional Priorities: New Strategic Plan Aspirations								
	ROOTED			RESTLESS			STRENGTHENING our Foundation	
Aligning Standards to Institutional Priorities	Maximize the Impact of our Augustinian Values	Foster a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Community	Build an Ever More Connected Values-Driven Community	Advance Innovative Teaching and Learning	Create Dynamic Opportunities for Research and Scholarship	Propel Villanovans on a Path of Lifelong Success		
Middle States Standards of Accreditation	I	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	II		✓			✓	✓	
	III		✓		✓	✓		
	IV	✓	✓	✓				
	V		✓		✓		✓	
	VI					✓		✓
	VII		✓					✓