

Brandeis University Self-Study for NEASC Reaccreditation
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Welcome to the Brandeis University Re-Accreditation website. Every ten years, we are assessed for re-accreditation by The New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Our last review in 1996 was very successful and identified important university goals and challenges that have subsequently guided institutional change.

NEASC provides standards, eleven in all, that act as guidelines for the information needed for re-accreditation. (<http://www.neasc.org/>) These eleven standards guide our preparation of a self-study document. The standards have been in revision over the past two years and revisions have focused on five major themes: information and technology; assessment; public disclosure; quality of the academic program; and responsibility and integrity. Changes to the standards include new names and subheadings and a clear emphasis on these five themes across the standards, including a separate new standard on assessment. This latter topic of assessment is one that will be raised in a variety of faculty venues. We will be among the first research universities to address assessment of student learning in a re-accreditation process and we will therefore be setting the standard in New England.

Over the course of 18 months, this self-study document is generally produced by faculty and administrators with feedback from the entire community. It is formally submitted to NEASC before their Visiting Committee comes to campus in the fall of 2006.

Our intention is to draw on existing faculty committees to minimize the workload of faculty and to maximize their feedback and advice. The University Advisory Council has agreed to act as a steering committee for this process. In addition, we expect that faculty will act as reviewers of data and draft documents that will be prepared mostly by administrative staff.

Outreach by individual committees will occur throughout this semester and into next year, as will frequent updates from both of us. We believe that frequent and open communication with faculty, staff and students will be critical to achieving the positive outcome that we all expect and seek.

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