

# Student Feedback on Middle States

What are students saying about Middle States? In Fall 2021, information was shared with SUNY Cortland students to inform them about accreditation and the university's self-study.

Students were asked to complete a survey to learn more about Middle States and share their perspectives. Some notes about the survey:

- The survey focused on three standards most relevant to students: Standard 3, 4 and 5
- For each of the three standards, students were asked three questions:
- Are the strengths, progress, and suggestions relevant and meaningful to you as students?
- Do you agree or disagree with the strengths, progress, and suggestions?
- Would you add any specific suggestion regarding the standard?
- In total, 330 students responded to the survey.

Students agreed with the university's findings and suggestions. Here are some highlights from their responses:

## **Standard 3: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience**

Students indicated having access to opportunities and resources that aided in student success as "extremely important." Student responses also praised the helpfulness of resources such as the Writing Center.

"The college seems dedicated to providing experiences and resources that will help students develop necessary skills."

"The environment in Cortland classrooms is extremely positive from my experience. Professors are truly engaged and interested in the topics they teach which inherently leads to students getting just as engaged. I feel comfortable sharing my thoughts and having open conversations in the classroom."

"I agree that the environment should be geared toward success, and the availability and access to student writing centers and academic help are crucial to the learning of some."

## **Standard 4: Support of the Student Experience**

Student responses encouraged SUNY Cortland's continued effort in awarding transfer credits for prior learning experiences. Responses also underscored the importance of student support.

"...I wasn't aware of the student affairs case manager position, and it's very reassuring knowing that our school actually cares about us."

"Overall, I believe the support for students is good. There is a lot that is done to make sure we stay on track and do what we're supposed to do."

## **Standard 5: Educational Effectiveness**

Students demonstrated interest in new ways of engaging with alumni from their respective majors and fields of study.

"Not every student has the same goals, but it is important to have something that keeps you motivated and working towards graduation. Cortland has done a great job in providing examples and resources to help students achieve their respective goals."

"From my experience, Cortland and its professors do a great job with setting out learning goals and objectives ... As someone who always performed poorly on exams despite hours of studying, I feel that the process the professors go through in preparation for exams and in their teaching in general proves to me that I am truly valued and understood as a student. Professors at Cortland care about their students."

"As for student support, I know a lot of people that have needed support from the college for academics and there are so many resources. It does feel like everyone at the college wants us to succeed."