Accreditation Process

• Our accreditor is the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE)

• 10-year accreditation renewed in 2019

• Next self-study and site visit in Spring 2029

• 5-year Interim Report due January 15, 2024
Emphasis on *data-informed analysis*, not description

- Cover page, introduction and overview
- 2 pages on each area of emphasis (UVM has 4)
- Update on standards 1-7 and 9
- 20-25 page reflective essay on Educational Effectiveness (Std. 8)
- Future plans
INTERIM REPORT 50 PAGES

- Cover page
- Introduction
- Overview
- Areas of Emphasis 2 pages each
- Plans 2-3 pages
- Reflective Essay 20-25 pages
- Standards update 15 pages
Interim Report Special Feature: Reflective Essay

- What and how students are expected to learn
- Current assessment processes and activities
- Evidence of student learning
- Improving student learning and success
- Future assessment goals and plans
New NECHE Focus Areas (2021 Standards update)

- Transfer Credit subheading (Std. 4)
- Integrity of Admissions Standards (Std. 5) and gift acceptance policies (Std. 7)
- Evaluation and Updating of disaster and business continuity plans (Std. 7)
- Transparency (Std. 9) has more emphasis throughout
- DEI and Organization and Governance have increased focus throughout the standards
Institutional Updates – a sampling

• Std. 1 Mission and Purpose – strategic alignments with our mission
• Std. 2 Planning and Evaluation – Amplifying our Impact, ASGs, DEI Strategic planning
• Std. 3 Governance - Efforts to diversity the BOT; new procedures for structural changes
• Std. 4 Academic Program - Defining a separate graduate curriculum
• Std. 5 Students - Test-optional; UVM GO; CatAdvantage program; policy updates
• Std. 6 Teaching, Learning and Scholarship - Faculty development and support through COVID; emphasis on recruitment, mentoring and retention of faculty
• Std. 7 Institutional Resources - Emergency preparedness; Campus Master Plan; financial planning; new LMS, Leahy archive
• Std. 9 Integrity, Transparency and Public Disclosure– New website; communications efforts; policy clarifications
UVM Areas of Emphasis (2019 Commission Letter)

“...that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, the institution give emphasis to its success in:

1) implementing its plans to revise its general education curriculum;
2) engaging in strategic planning and campus master planning;
3) implementing initiatives to assure the effectiveness of academic advising and career services;
4) implementing a systematic approach to the assessment of student learning and using the results for improvement”
Reflective Essay on Educational Effectiveness

• Making data accessible through OIRA dashboards

• Building assessment into new initiatives (Catamount Core; LMS implementation)

• New processes for annual assessment reporting

• New Assessment Coordinator role in OIRA

• Incorporating info from regular surveys and assessments into strategic planning
Questions?