



# Orientación sobre Hallazgos del Auto-estudio MSCHE 2024-2025

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Chair del Autoestudio 2024-2025



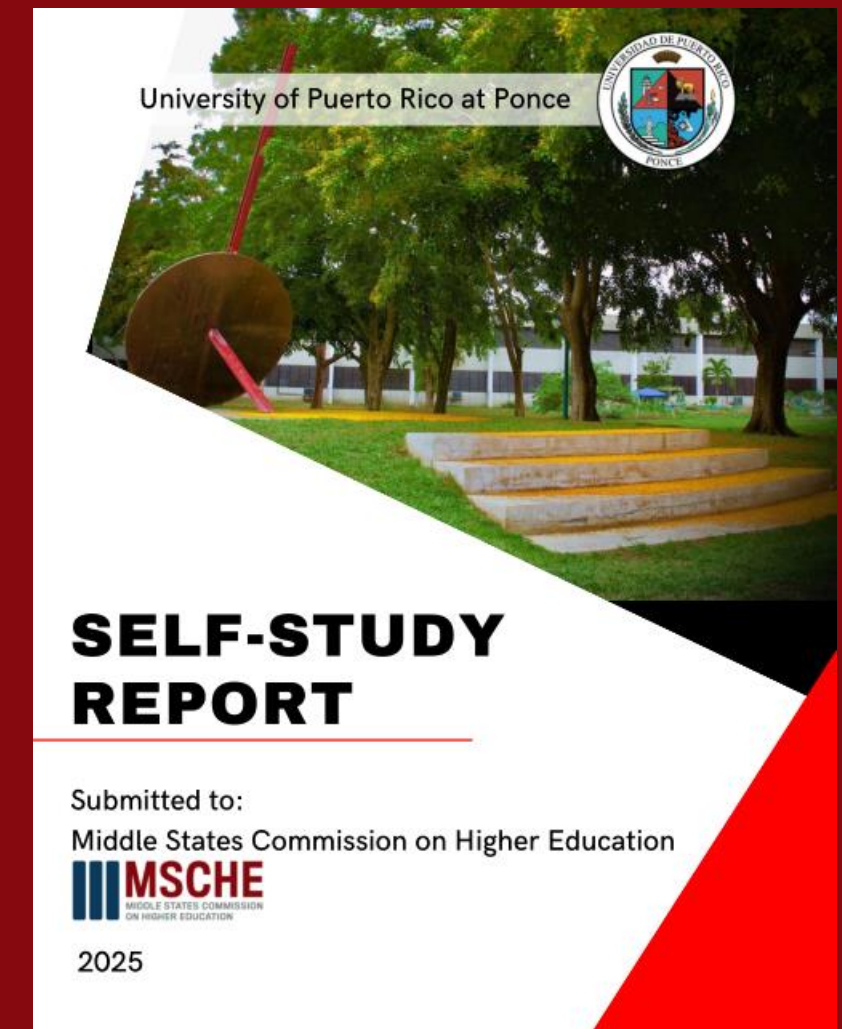
# Introducción

- La UPR-Ponce fue acreditada por primera vez en el 1970.
- Las reacreditaciones más recientes fueron en el 2005 y 2016.
- Durante la última década hemos redactado y enviado una variedad de informes a la MSCHE.
- Actualmente estamos completamente acreditados.



# ¿Qué es el Auto-estudio?

- Es una autoevaluación expresada en un documento donde se presenta cómo se conducen los esfuerzos de manera colaborativa para lograr un propósito en común:
  - Efectividad institucional
  - Excelencia y calidad en los programas y el servicio al estudiantado
  - Cumplimiento con la misión y las metas establecidas
  - Mejoramiento continuo
- El documento que presentamos tiene 122 páginas y 119 apéndices.





# Comité de trabajo del Auto-estudio



Comité Ejecutivo



Comité Timón



Subcomités de  
trabajo

# Comité Timón

## Subcomité #1

### *Mission and Goals*

Dr. José V. Madera  
Prof. Frances Torres

## Subcomité #2

### *Ethics and Integrity*

Dra. Michelle Beauchamp

## Subcomité #3

### *Design and Delivery of the Student Learning*

Dr. Wilfredo Ayala

## Subcomité #4

### *Support of the Student Experience*

Prof. Dalmid Correa

## Subcomité #5

### *Educational Effectiveness Assessment*

Dra. Neyla Rivera

## Subcomité #6

### *Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement*

Dra. Diana López

## Subcomité #7

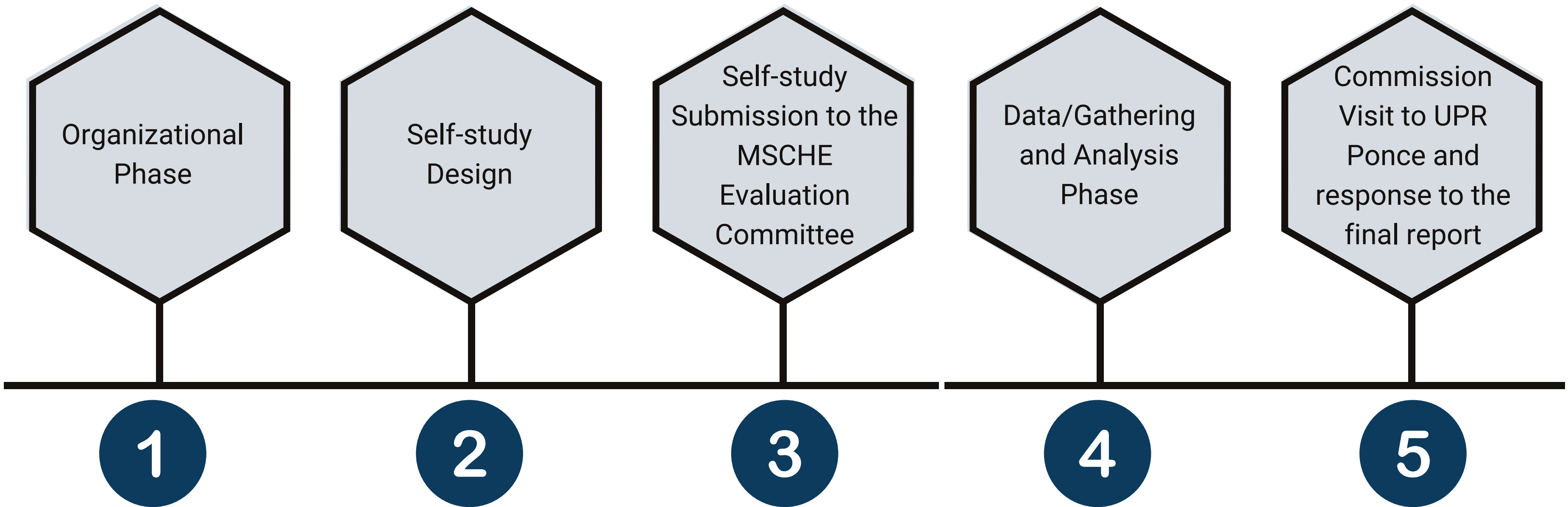
### *Governance, Leadership, and Administration*

Dr. Milton Rivera

*Dra. Michelle Méndez - editora*



# *Timetable*



# Fechas importantes:

- lunes, 21 de octubre de 2024: Se recibirá visita preliminar de la team chair Dra. Suzan Harkness (Provost de SUNY Morrisville).



- 16 al 19 de marzo de 2025: Visita acreditación
- junio 2025: Se reúne la Comisión para tomar la decision final.



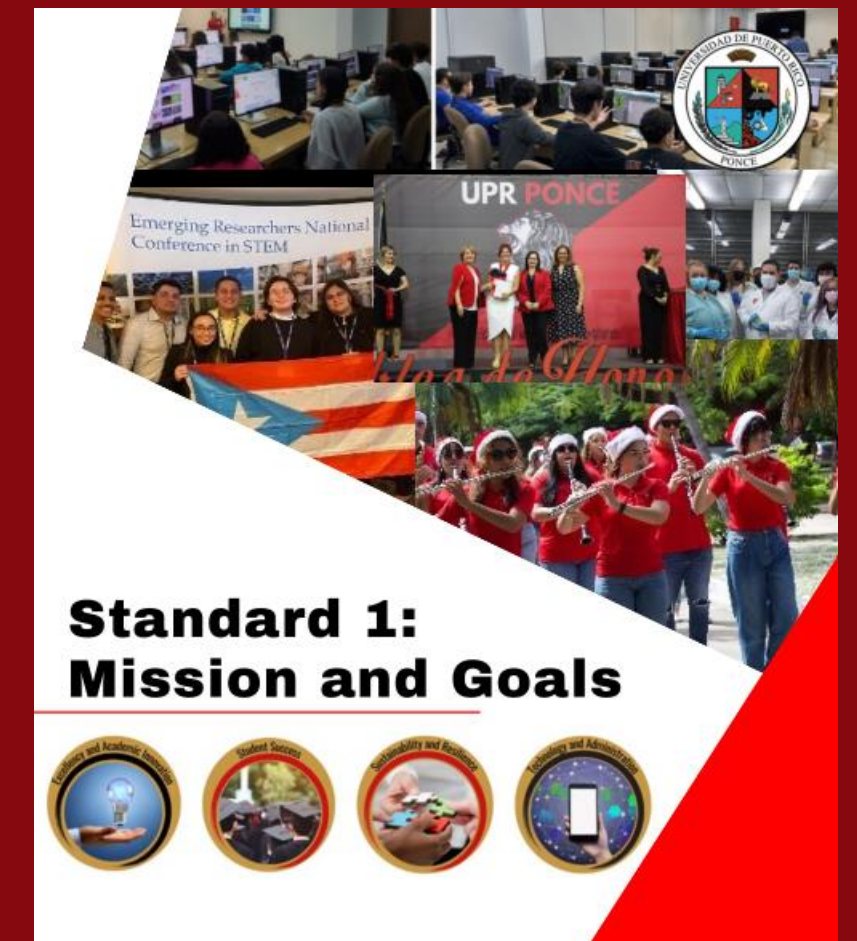


# Hallazgos

## Estándar 1: Mission and Goals

### Prof. Frances Torres

“The institution’s mission defines its purpose within the context of higher education, the students it serves, and what it intends to accomplish. The institution’s stated goals are clearly linked to its mission and specify how the institution fulfills its mission.”





# Conclusiones

- The essential components of academic, student, and administrative activity are aligned with the mission of the University of Puerto Rico at Ponce.
- The budgetary resources to fulfill the mission are distributed based on an institutional assessment process that addresses the three components.
- The institution fulfills its mission in all areas.



# Recomendaciones

- Maintain the current institutional assessment structure to examine which areas comply with the mission and how to distribute budget resources to maintain current compliance.
- Ensure that the mission is reviewed and updated considering stakeholders' needs, current and foreseeable trends, environmental elements and other relevant factors.

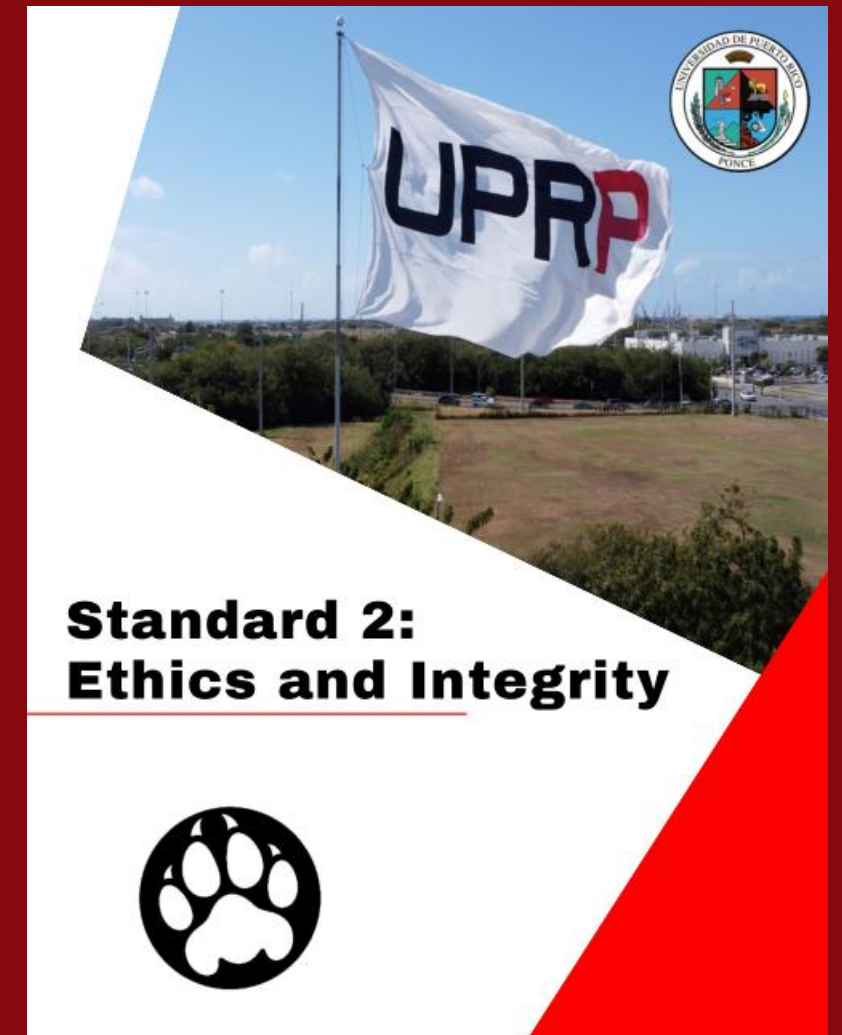


# Hallazgos

## Estándar 2: Ethics and Integrity

### Dra. Michele Beauchamp

“Ethics and integrity are central, indispensable, and defining hallmarks of effective higher education institutions. In all activities, whether internal or external, an institution must be faithful to its mission, honor its contracts and commitments, adhere to its policies, and represent itself truthfully.”





# Conclusiones

- Evidence supports that the UPR-Ponce upholds three core institutional values: Academic Freedom, Communication and Participation, and Respect.
- UPR-Ponce actively works to create an atmosphere that promotes freedom of expression through student associations, assemblies, and extracurricular activities.
- The institution is dedicated to creating a supportive and intellectually vibrant community that values freedom, integrity, and fairness for both students and faculty.
- There is a commitment to ethical, legal, and transparent practices at UPR-Ponce, covering various aspects, such as research, employment, procurement, and conflict resolution.



# Conclusiones

- UPR-Ponce is dedicated to fostering a fair, transparent, and inclusive environment for its faculty and non-faculty, ensuring adherence to legal and ethical standards in recruitment, evaluation, promotion, and disciplinary processes.
- UPR-Ponce is actively engaged in a multi-faceted communication strategy, using multiple channels to disseminate information, recruit students, and enhance overall community engagement.
- The institution's financial aid initiatives showcase a holistic approach to accessibility, transparency, and student support, ultimately contributing to the success and well-being of its student body.
- UPR-Ponce places a strong emphasis on ethical conduct, continuous improvement, and the well-being of its community, as evidenced by its compliance to government ethics laws, the presence of ethical committees, ongoing professional training, and the promotion of student and employee rights and values.



# Recomendaciones

- Further nurture diversity, uphold respect, and maintain integrity within the UPR-Ponce community, as has been consistently done thus far.
- Continue improving interactions within all sectors of the UPR-Ponce's constituents.
- Finish the process of establishing and appointing the Office of the Faculty Ombudsperson, as outlined in Certification 45-2016-2017 of the Academic Senate, that aims to create a dedicated Faculty Ombudsperson Office.
- Continuously oversee and revise policies, practices, and procedures for students, faculty, and non-faculty.





# Hallazgos

## Estándar 3: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

### Dr. Wilfredo Ayala

“An institution provides students with learning experiences that are characterized by rigor and coherence at all program, certificate, and degree levels, regardless of instructional modality. All learning experiences, regardless of modality, program pace/schedule, level, and setting are consistent with higher education expectations.”



# Conclusiones

- The University of Puerto Rico at Ponce provides students with learning experiences that are rigorous and coherent at all program and degree levels, regardless of instructional modality.
- All learning experiences are consistent with higher education expectations.
- There is a robust culture for assessment to pursue professional accreditations for all programs, and periodically evaluate those that are not subject to it.
- The institution has a faculty body who is highly qualified due to a rigorous recruitment and evaluation process and given many opportunities for professional development.



# Conclusiones

- Students have multiple ways to comply with the requirements of their programs and ensure they complete their degree in a timely manner and count on many support services and diverse learning opportunities to enhance the educational experience.
- The general education and community service components provide students with a comprehensive education.





# Recomendaciones

- Increase the number of online courses to serve students who cannot be physically present at the institution.
- Increase the number of courses offered at night and at weekends.
- Continue complying with the strategic objective that requests all academic programs to be revised every five years.

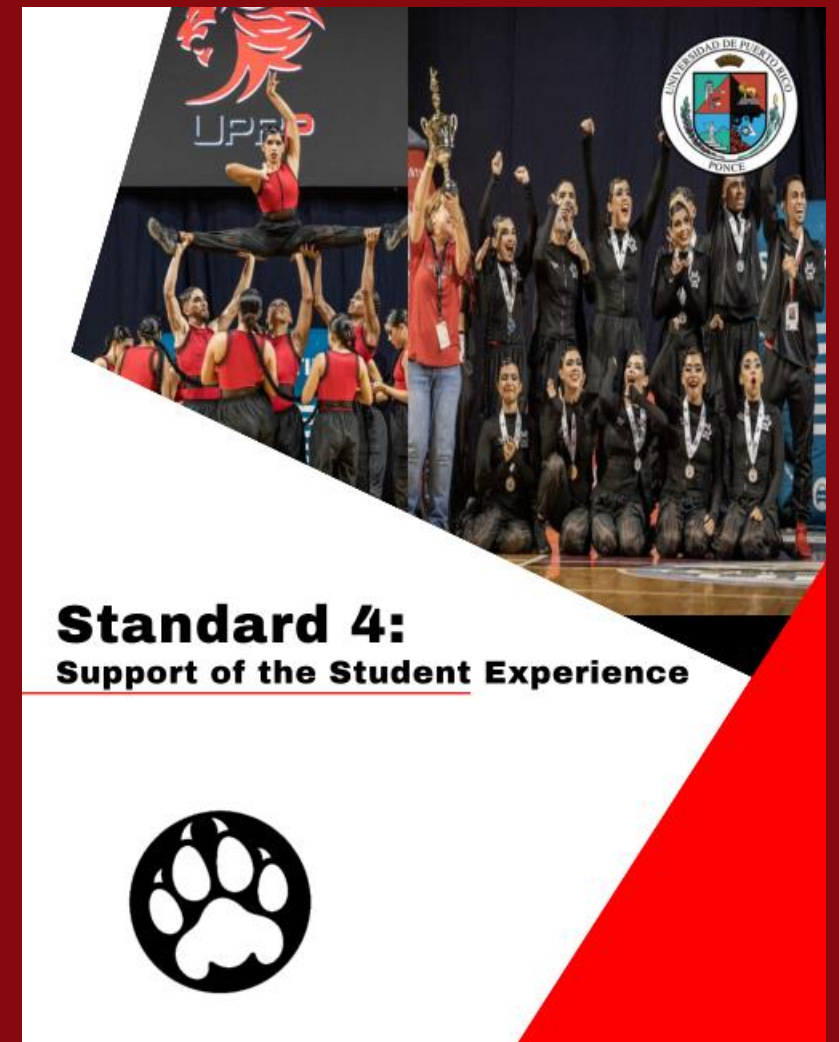


# Hallazgos

## Estándar 4: Support of the Student Experience

### Prof. Dalmid Correa

“Across all educational experiences, settings, levels, and instructional modalities, the institution recruits and admits students whose interests, abilities, experiences, and goals are congruent with its mission and educational offerings. The institution commits to student retention, persistence, completion, and success through a coherent and effective support system sustained by qualified professionals, which enhances the quality of the learning environment, contributes to the educational experience, and fosters student success.”



# Conclusiones

- UPR-Ponce has clearly stated ethical policies and processes to admit, retain, and facilitate the success of students through a variety of services and opportunities.
- Information regarding expenses, financial aid, scholarships, grants, loans, repayment, and refunds is accurate and it is available for all constituents.
- The institution offers various services and processes that support and strengthen the student's educational experience and help them achieve their educational goals.





# Conclusiones

- UPR-Ponce has clear and transparent policies and procedures regarding evaluation and acceptance of transfer credits.
- Student life, organizations, and extracurricular activities are governed by the same academic, fiscal, and administrative principles and procedures that oversee all other programs.
- There are policies and procedures to keep student information and records safe and private.
- The institution periodically assesses the effectiveness of its programs and uses results to make decisions.



# Recomendaciones

- Continue carrying out the Exit Interviews and the Annual Effectiveness Reports to gather data, assess, and make decisions.
- Maintain the current institutional policies, processes, and procedures related to admissions.
- Continue producing information about all the different aspects important to constituents that is reliable, transparent, and accessible.
- Continue preserving and strengthen technology and tools to maintain student information private and safe.

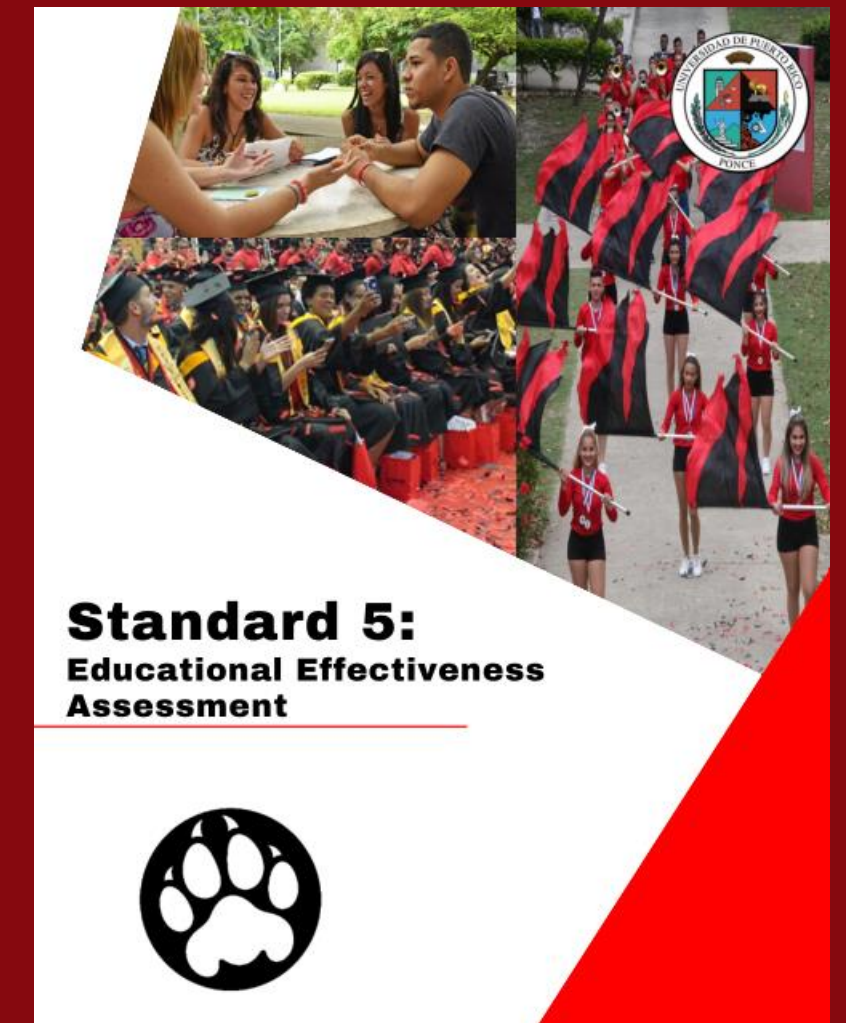


# Hallazgos

## Estándar 5: Educational Effectiveness Assessment

### Dra. Neyla Rivera

“Assessment of student learning and achievement demonstrates that the institution’s students have accomplished educational goals consistent with their program of study, degree level, the institution’s mission, and appropriate expectations for institutions of higher education.”





# Conclusiones

- UPR-Ponce has clearly stated educational goals at the institution and program levels.
- The institution, propelled by the rigorous endeavors of the Office of Planning and Institutional Research (OPIR), has a clear and supported culture of assessment, transparency, and collaboration.
- The institutional approach to planning and budgeting is assessment-driven and results in tangible improvements across academic and administrative areas.
- UPR-Ponce's decision-making process is anchored in empirical data and feedback.
- The institution plans, conducts, and supports a wide range of professional development activities during the academic year.
- UPR-Ponce shares assessment results with constituents in many ways.



# Recomendaciones

- Preserve the current institutional assessment structure.
- Maintain the data-driven decision-making culture.

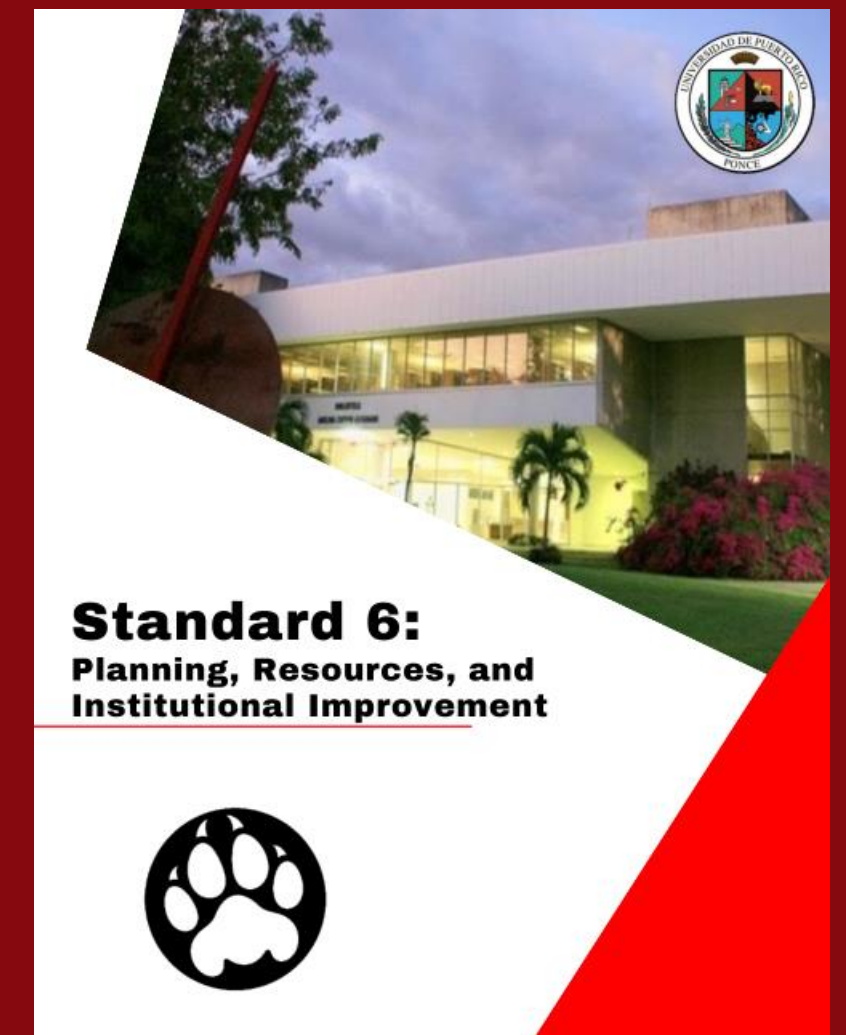


# Hallazgos

## Estándar 6: Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

### Dra. Diana López

"The institution's planning processes, resources, and structures are aligned with each other and are sufficient to fulfill its mission and goals, to continuously assess and improve its programs and services, and to respond effectively to opportunities and challenges."





# Conclusiones

- UPR-Ponce has demonstrated success in the execution of its strategic and operational plans, aligning effectively with its mission.
- The institution has displayed remarkable effectiveness in navigating reductions in the consolidated budget.
- UPR-Ponce consistently produces financial reports that adhere meticulously to the law and all applicable regulations, ensuring a high level of compliance and transparency.



# Recomendaciones

- Enhance endeavors aimed at increasing external funding by actively pursuing research proposals, soliciting donations, and securing grants.
- Persevere in the implementation and ongoing assessment of the strategic plan, providing guidance for the institution throughout the 2021-2026 period.

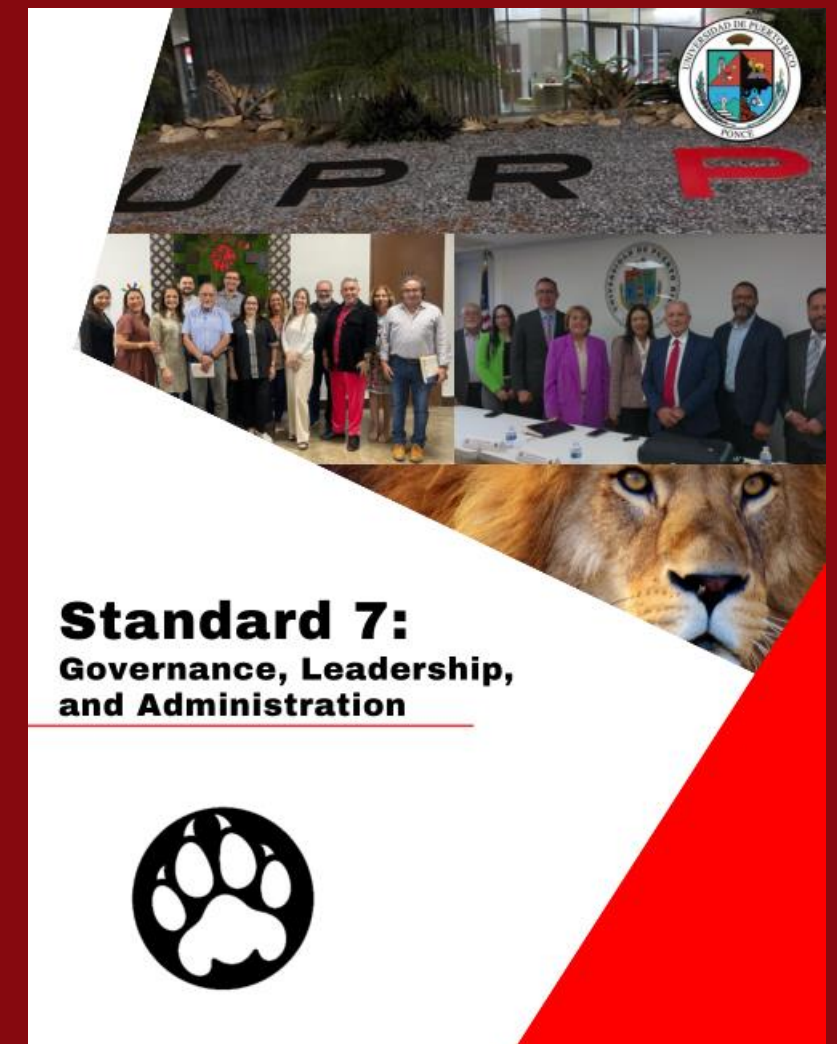


# Hallazgos

## Estándar 7: Governance, Leadership, and Administration

### Dr. Milton Rivera

“The institution is governed and administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission and goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, and the other constituencies it serves. Even when supported by or affiliated with governmental, corporate, religious, educational system, or other unaccredited organizations, the institution has education as its primary purpose, and it operates as an academic institution with appropriate autonomy.”





# Conclusiones

- University Law and established policies offer a well-defined structure that effectively guides and governs the institution, with clear lines of authority being adhered to.
- Members of governing bodies possess the necessary expertise to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities.
- The UPR General By-Laws and policies of governing bodies play a vital role in directing and facilitating effective governance and institution functioning. These guidelines are shared with the community through both print and electronic media.



# Conclusiones

- Examination of constituent participation in institutional-level decision-making reveals a satisfactory balance, with representation from faculty, non-faculty, and students across various decision-making levels.
- The university's administrative structure provides stability, even in the face of administrative changes at higher levels.
- Administrative structures and services undergo periodic assessments to enhance their effectiveness and performance within the university community.



# Recomendaciones

- Maintain the practice of providing formal orientations to the UPR-Ponce governing bodies regarding the institution's mission, structure, objectives, and academic programs.
- Explore innovative strategies to improve constituents' perception of their roles and achievements and strengthen the mechanisms designed for regular communication of their perspectives.





# Sección de Preguntas

