



Introduction to ABET Accreditation



ABET Statement of Purpose

- With ABET accreditation, students, employers, and the society we serve can be confident that a program meets the quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce



What Does ABET Accredit?

- An academic program leading to a specific degree in a specific discipline
- Misconceptions clarified:
 - Not institutions
 - Not schools, colleges, or departments
 - Not facilities, courses, or faculty
 - Not graduates
 - Not degrees



National Institute of Ceramic Engineers (NICE)



ABET's 35 Member Societies



NSPS



TMS



Member Societies

- Represent “the profession”
 - Over 1.5 million individual members
- Develop program criteria
- Appoint Board representatives
- Nominate commissioners
- Recruit and assign program evaluators

ABET Accreditation Statistics As of 1 October 2016 ... 3,709 Programs

- Accredited programs by commission:
 ANSAC: 87 CAC: 461
 EAC: 2550 ETAC: 629

Commission	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Programs	Institutions	Programs	Institutions
ANSAC	82	64	5	3
CAC	391	307	70	47
EAC	2106	429	444	99
ETAC	571	206	58	19



Becoming a Program Evaluator



The Big Picture



- ABET accredits 3,569 programs at 714 institutions in 29 countries.
- At present, more than ABET 2,200 experts.
 - From academia, industry, government, and the profession
 - Experts serve many roles in ABET.
- Quality and consistency of the accreditation process is derived from strength of the PEV pool.

A Growing Need for PEVs

- Projected need for up to 2,500 experts within five years
- Major ABET priorities:
 - Work with societies to recruit PEV
 - Refine/improve training
 - Retain new PEVs



Why Become an ABET Expert?

- Ensure global program quality
- Contribute to technical education program delivery
- Individual professional development
- Gain best practice experience from programs other than one's own
- Influence academic conversation and relationship with industry

Program Evaluator (PEV) Competency Model

- Program evaluators are the “face of ABET” and need to:
 - Uphold the highest quality
 - Improve consistency
 - “Walk the talk” of continuous improvement
- Approved by Board and implemented in 2005



PEV Competencies

- Technically Current
- Effective Communicators
- Professional
- Interpersonally Skilled
- Team-Oriented
- Organized

What's in It for You?

- Help ensure the quality of higher education
- Unique professional development opportunity
 - Use your specialized knowledge to improve educational experience for thousands of students.
- Network with other professionals
 - A great source of experience-based knowledge
- Keep up to date and have input on the criteria
- Service to the community of people who are trying to help maintain quality education
- Serve your profession, “give back”

PEV Pre-Visit Effort

- Pre-Visit (10-28 hours)
 - Training updates (1-2 hours)
 - Reviewing the Self-Study Report (4-8 hours)
 - Completing required forms (2-6 hours)
 - Participating in team conference calls (2-4 hours)
 - Communicating with the program and team chair prior to the visit (1-8 hours)

PEV Visit and Post-Visit

- Campus Visit: Sunday through Tuesday
 - Travel Saturday, Tuesday evening
 - Review materials
 - Based on your assessment of Self-Study Report
 - Tour facilities
 - Meet and interview faculty, students, and others
 - Participate in team meetings
 - Extensive discussions – team-based decisions
 - Write short report of findings
- Post Visit (1-2 hours)
 - As requested by the team chair
 - No direct contact with school after visit

PEV Annual Cycle Experience

- 360° review of each visit
 - PEVs evaluated by program chair and team chair
 - PEVs evaluate other PEVs and team chair
 - Results provided to PEV after completion of review cycle
- Update status each spring
 - Code of conduct agreement
 - Availability for visits
 - New conflicts of interest
- Training
 - Refresher training
 - Just-in-time training prior to each visit
 - ABET Workshops and Symposia (complimentary registration for PEVs)
- Repeat as desired

Initial Training

Three Separate Steps

- 1) Online learning experience
- 2) Face-to-face facilitated instruction
- 3) Society-specific training (if applicable)

Online Training

- Online portion of PEV Candidate Training typically takes 20-25 hours
- Requires written work and the completion of three end-of-module quizzes

Face-to-Face Training

- Pre-Work (4-8 hours)
 - Review of process and requirements
 - Evaluation of partial Self-Study Report
 - Mentor support/feedback
- Face-to-Face Training (~2 days with travel)
 - Full-day Saturday, half-day Sunday
 - Teams of 5-6 PEV candidates with Support Facilitator
 - Variety of activities
 - Presentation of information
 - Team activities
 - Play-acting demonstrations
 - Individual statement writing exercise

Personal Travel Expenses



- ABET pays all reasonable and appropriate travel expenses
 - Face-to-Face Training
 - Campus Visits

Training Period

- The entire PEV candidate training process begins in March and ends in June.
- The online training must be completed at least three weeks before the Face-to-Face Training.



Additional Training Notes

- New PEVs are assigned a mentor who provides feedback throughout training.
- Support Facilitator at the Face-to-Face Training also provides feedback.
- Some societies require an observer visit before a PEV serves on an actual visit.
- PEVs do online Just-in-Time Training prior to visits *each year* as a reminder about tasks and changes.
- Professional Development Hours (PDHs) can be awarded for participation.

Start With Online Application

www.abet.org

- When you apply, you must select the appropriate commission.
 - Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ASAC)
 - Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC)
 - Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC)
 - Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC)
- Your member society will review your application and contact you if you are selected for training.
 - Each society has different selection cycle and may take several months.

Nomination by Your Professional / Technical Society

- PEV candidates who successfully complete both the online training and the Face-to-Face Training may be nominated by his or her member society to serve as a program evaluator.
- Some societies require additional specialized training and conduct that separately, often online.

Link to Application

<http://www.abet.org/program-evaluators/>



Value of ABET Accreditation



Value of ABET Accreditation

- ABET-accredited programs recognized globally
 - Commitment to quality education
- Outcomes-based approach
 - “What is learned” vs. “what is taught”
- Emphasis on continuous quality improvement
- Criteria encourage innovation

ABET Value Industry

- Ensures educational requirements to enter “the profession” are met
- Aids industry in recruiting
 - Ensures “baseline” of educational experience
- Enhances mobility
- Opportunity to help guide the educational process
 - Program’s industrial advisory groups
 - Professional, technical societies





Basics of ABET Accreditation



Generally Accepted Accreditation Principles

- Accreditation is **voluntary**
- Non-governmental organization
- Fair and impartial peer review process
- Requires self-assessment by the program/school
- Continuous process (reviewed every *n* years)
- Failure of single criterion results in loss of accreditation
 - Deficiencies in one area CANNOT be compensated by strengths in other areas.

What Programs Does ABET Accredite?

- Academic program leading to a specific degree in a specific discipline
 - Assigned commission depends on program name
- Applied Science (ASAC): associate's, bachelor's, master's
 - Examples: Health Physics, Industrial Hygiene, Industrial & Quality Management, Safety Sciences, Surveying & Mapping
- Computing (CAC): bachelor's
 - Computer Science, Info Systems, Info Technology
- Engineering (EAC): bachelor's, master's
- Engineering Technology (ETAC): associate's, bachelor's

ABET Accreditation Process

What Does It Involve?

- Criteria developed by member societies, practitioners, and educators
- Self-Study Report by the institution and program
- On-site evaluation by peers
 - From education, government, and industry
- Publication of lists of accredited programs
- Periodic re-evaluation (maximum 6 years)



ABET Accreditation Process

ABET Accreditation Process

- Programs prepare Self-Study Report for evaluation team
 - Documents how the program meets criteria
- Program review conducted by team of peer colleagues
 - Faculty, industry and government professionals, and administrators in the profession
 - Review the Self-Study Report, conduct the review visit
- ABET Program Evaluators (PEVs)
 - 2,200+ volunteers from academe, industry, and government (individual members of ABET Member Societies)

Peer Review

- Evaluation conducted by team of peer colleagues:
 - Faculty, industry and government professionals, and administrators in the profession
 - Review the Self-Study Report and conduct review visits
- ABET resource pool of visitors consists of approximately 2,200 faculty, industry, and government representatives

Review Team Membership

- One Team Chair
 - For large teams: Team Chair and Co-Chair
- Typically one program evaluator for each program being evaluated
 - Minimum of 2 for a single program
- Possibly one or more observers
 - International partners, U.S. state licensing boards, new program evaluators, ABET staff
- Team members are volunteers and not compensated for their work

On-Site Visit

- Direct observations
 - Program facilities
 - Student work, materials
 - Interview faculty, students, administrators, and other professional supporting personnel
- Complements the Self-Study Report
 - Provides direct, observable evidence that cannot be obtained from the Self-Study Report

Accreditation Timeline

18-21* Month Process



General Criteria

- 1) Students
- 2) Program Educational Objectives
- 3) Student Outcomes
- 4) Continuous Improvement
- 5) Curriculum
- 6) Faculty
- 7) Facilities
- 8) Institutional Support

Plus, Program Criteria



Continuous Quality Improvement

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

- ABET criteria have been developed on the principles of continuous quality improvement.
- On-going process at institution to improve quality of student's educational experience
 - Systematic process: documented, repeatable
 - Assess performance against criteria
 - Take actions to improve program
- Accreditation is a **part** of CQI.
 - Verification that program meets certain level of quality, and CQI is part of the quality process.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI Process)

- CQI process includes a clear understanding of:
 - Mission (your purpose)
 - Constituents (your customers)
 - Objectives (what one is trying to achieve)
 - Outcomes (learning that takes place to meet objectives)
 - Processes (internal practices to achieve the outcome)
 - Facts (data collection)
 - Evaluation (interpretation of facts)
 - Action (change, improvement)