

# Computing Research Association

*Conference at Snowbird 2000*



Slides from a workshop  
*on the topic of*

“Perspectives on CSAB Accreditation  
Activities and Integration of  
CSAC into ABET”

presented by

Lawrence Jones,  
Carnegie Mellon University

Tuesday July 11, 2000  
3:00 pm

<http://www.cra.org/Activities/snowbird/00/wk3-2.html>



Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

# **CSAB/CSAC Criteria January 2000**

## **An Overview**

**Dr. Lawrence G. Jones**  
**CSAC Criteria Committee**  
**Software Engineering Institute**  
**Carnegie Mellon University**

**Computing Research Association**  
**July 11, 2000**  
**Snowbird, Utah**



# History and Status

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

**Major review of Criteria started in 1995-96**

**Investigated in detail approaches by**

- **AACSB (Business)**
- **ABET (Engineering)**
- **NCATE (Teaching)**

**1996-97 and 1997-98**

- **broad input on draft criteria**

**1998-99**

- **Version 0.6 used for 2 pilot programs**

**1999-00**

- **Version 0.8 used for 6 pilot programs**

**2000-01**

- **full deployment**



# Structure

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

## Two documents

- ***Criteria for Accrediting Computer Science Programs in the United States***
  - ▶ seven *Categories*
  - ▶ each category is divided into
    - ▶ *Intent*
    - ▶ *Standards*
- ***Guidance for Interpreting the Criteria for Accrediting Programs in Computer Science in the United States***
  - ▶ seven sections
    - ▶ one per criteria category
  - ▶ contents mapped to specific *Standards*



# Criteria Categories

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

**Objectives and Assessments**

**Student Support**

**Faculty**

**Curriculum**

**Laboratory and Computing Facilities**

**Institutional Support and Financial Resources**

**Institutional Facilities**



# What is an *Intent* statement?

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

**An *Intent* statement is a high level description of a program that conforms to a particular Criteria *Category*.**

**In order to be accreditable, a program must meet the *Intent* statement of every *Category*.**

**Example from *Faculty* Category:**

**Faculty members are current and active in the discipline and have the necessary technical breadth and depth to support a modern computer science program. There are enough faculty members to provide continuity and stability, to cover the curriculum reasonably, and to allow an appropriate mix of teaching and scholarly activity.**



# What is a *Standard*?

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

**Standards are a series of enumerated statements of how to minimally meet the *Intent* of a particular *Category*.**

**Standards are both qualitative and quantitative.**

**Standards define *minimum* essential elements.**

**A program that satisfies all the *Standards* of a *Category* meets the *Intent* of that *Category*.**

**A program that does not satisfy one or more of the *Standards* of a *Category* but demonstrates an alternative approach to meeting the *Intent* of that *Category* is still *accreditable*.**



# Examples of Standards

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

## Category: Faculty

**Three of the nine standards in the Category:**

- **III-1. There must be enough full-time faculty members with primary commitment to the program to provide continuity and stability.**
- **III-6. All faculty members must have a level of competence that would normally be obtained through graduate work in computer science.**
- **III-8. All full-time faculty must have sufficient time for scholarly activities and professional development.**





# What is Guidance?

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

**Guidance statements generally express acknowledged ways to satisfy *Standards*.**

**Guidance is not comprehensive**

- **Many *Standards* are not addressed in the *Guidance*.**
- **Thus, compliance with guidance does not assure satisfaction of a *Standard* in all cases.**

**The *Guidance* document uses the same *Category* structure as the *Criteria* document.**

**Each guidance statement indicates the *Standard* it supports.**



# Example of Guidance

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

## Category: Faculty

**Two of thirteen items guidance items:**

- **2. Typically, a program should have a minimum of five FTE faculty, of which four should be full-time faculty members with primary commitment to the program. [III-1, III-4]**
- **8. The equivalent of graduate work in computer science can be demonstrated by relevant research, thesis supervision, a history of attendance at relevant technical conferences, auditing of graduate courses, or extensive software design and development experience. [III-6]**



# Differences June 96 - January 2000

Computer Science Accreditation Commission

---

## **Structure and style**

**Additional emphasis on program objectives and assessment of program effectiveness**

***Intent* concept provides more explicit means for accreditation of innovative programs**

- **reasonable departure from the Standards is acceptable if Intent of Category is met**
- **institution must present rationale to visiting team**

**Many former quantitative criteria included as *Guidance***

**Few other significant substantive changes**



# Web Site

[Computer Science Accreditation Commission](http://www.csab.org)

---

For more information

[WWW.CSAB.ORG](http://WWW.CSAB.ORG)