

Accreditation of IT Programs

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Session Format

- ABET directions in computing accreditation (Stu)
- A look at the IT criteria (David)
- Considerations for institutions and accrediting body (John)

ABET Commissions

- Applied Sciences (ASAC)
- Computing (CAC)
 - Accredits computer science, information systems
- Engineering (EAC)
 - Accredits computer engineering, software engineering
- Technology (TAC)
 - Accredits computer technology, mainly computer engineering technology

CAC Criteria

- Currently only CS and IS criteria, completely separate
- Other commissions have common “general criteria” that apply to all programs accredited by their commissions, and “program criteria” for each specific disciplinary program area within their scope
- CAC recently approved moving to this “general - program specific” framework

General Criteria

- ABET board approved first reading of draft general criteria in fall 2003
 - Being circulated for review and comment
 - 2 year review period
 - Pilot programs can be reviewed fall 04 under general criteria
 - IT programs selected for pilots
- Final approval desired by ABET board in fall 2005

General Standards

- Approved by CAC EC as one model for how to satisfy the general criteria
- Will be promulgated to evaluators and institutions who are involved in pilot visits

Program Criteria

- CSAB approved draft criteria for CS, IS and IT
- To be considered by CAC later this week
- If ok'd by CAC, will go to ABET Board for first reading in fall 2004, with 1 year review/comment period
- Expectation of some programs evaluated in fall 2005 using general and program criteria (all 3 areas)
- Final approval desired by ABET in fall 2005

Program Standards

- Standards specific to program areas also developed by the various groups (CS, IS, IT)
- These augment the general model with respect to the program criteria

Summary of IT-relevant timetable

- Fall 2003-Spring 2005 – Public review and comment of general criteria
- Summer 2004 – CAC approval of IT program criteria
- Fall 2004 – pilot IT programs evaluated using only general criteria; ABET board first reading of IT program criteria
- Fall 2004-Spring 2005 – Public review and comment of program criteria
- Fall 2005 – pilot IT programs evaluated using general and program criteria; ABET board final approval of general and IT program criteria
- Fall 2006 – all IT programs evaluated using general and program criteria