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