

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CRITERIA

The following section presents proposed changes to the criteria for accrediting computing programs. These proposed changes were approved by the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) and were brought before the ABET Board of Directors on November 1, 2003 for preliminary approval. Before being approved for final implementation in the accreditation process, these proposals are published here for circulation among the institutions with accredited programs and other interested parties for review and comment.

Comments will be considered until June 15, 2005. The ABET Board of Directors will determine, based on the comments received and on the advice of the CAC, the content of the adopted criteria. If approved for implementation, the revised criteria will first be applied by the CAC for accreditation actions during the 2006-2007 accreditation cycle.

It should be noted that the General Criteria proposed here will be applicable to all programs accredited by the CAC. In addition, program-specific criteria, i.e., Program Criteria, will also be developed and will be applicable to programs within the scope of the Program Criteria applicability.

Comments relative to the proposed criteria changes should be addressed to: Accreditation Director, Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc., 111 Market Place, Suite 1050, Baltimore, MD 21202-4012.

**Proposed
General Criteria
For
Accrediting Computing Programs**

1. Objectives, Outcomes, and Assessment

The program has documented measurable objectives and expected outcomes for graduating students, based on the needs of the program's constituencies. The program uses a documented process to regularly assess the extent to which its objectives and expected outcomes are being met. The results of the assessments are used to develop and implement plans to effect continuous improvement of the program.

2. Student Support

Students can complete the program in a reasonable amount of time. Students have ample opportunity to interact with their instructors. Students are offered timely, qualified advising about the program's requirements and their career alternatives. Students who graduate from the program meet all program requirements.

3. Faculty Qualifications

Faculty members are current and active in the computing discipline associated with the program. Collectively, they have the technical breadth and depth necessary to support the program.

4. Faculty Size and Workload

There are enough faculty members to provide continuity and stability, to cover the curriculum reasonably, and to allow an appropriate mix of teaching, professional development and scholarly activities for each faculty member.

5. Curriculum

The program's requirements are consistent with its objectives and expected outcomes. The curriculum combines technical and professional requirements with general education requirements and electives to prepare students for a professional career and further study in the computing discipline associated with the program, and for functioning in modern society. The technical and professional requirements include up-to-date coverage of basic and advanced topics in the computing discipline associated with the program, and appropriate mathematics.

6. Technology Infrastructure

Computing resources are available, accessible, and adequately supported to enable students to achieve the program's expected outcomes and to support faculty teaching needs and scholarly activities.

7. Institutional Support and Financial Resources

The institution's support for the program and the financial resources available to the program are sufficient to provide an environment in which the program can achieve its objectives and expected

outcomes. Support and resources are sufficient to provide assurance that the program will retain its strength throughout the period of accreditation.

8. Institutional Facilities

Institutional facilities including the library, other electronic information retrieval systems, computer networks, classrooms, and offices are adequate to support the objectives and expected outcomes of the program.