

ABET Accreditation: From Self-Study to Site Visit

*Academic and Business Research Institute
Conference*

Orlando, Florida

September 23-25, 2010



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Overview

- History of ABET
- Mission & Vision
- Why Pursue Accreditation?
- ABET Structure
- Accreditation Timeline
- Institutional Preparation
- The Visit
- Post Visit Activities
- Personal Experiences & Observations



History of ABET?

- The **Engineers' Council for Professional Development (ECPD)** was established in 1932.
 - ECPD was formed to fill the apparent need for a “joint program for upbuilding engineering as a profession,” a need determined by professional engineering societies.
- ECPD renamed the **Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)** in 1980.
- ABET helped establish the **Computing Sciences Accreditation Board (now CSAB)** in 1985.
 - CSAB established in response to the anticipated boom in computer science education
 - CSAB is now one of ABET’s largest member societies with 300+ accredited programs.
- In 2005, ABET formally changed its name from “Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology” to **ABET, Inc.**
 - Allows the organization to continue its activities under the name that represents leadership and quality in accreditation for the public while reflecting its broadening into additional areas of technical education.

ABET Mission & Vision

- **ABET Vision**

- ABET will provide world leadership in assuring quality and in stimulating innovation in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology education.

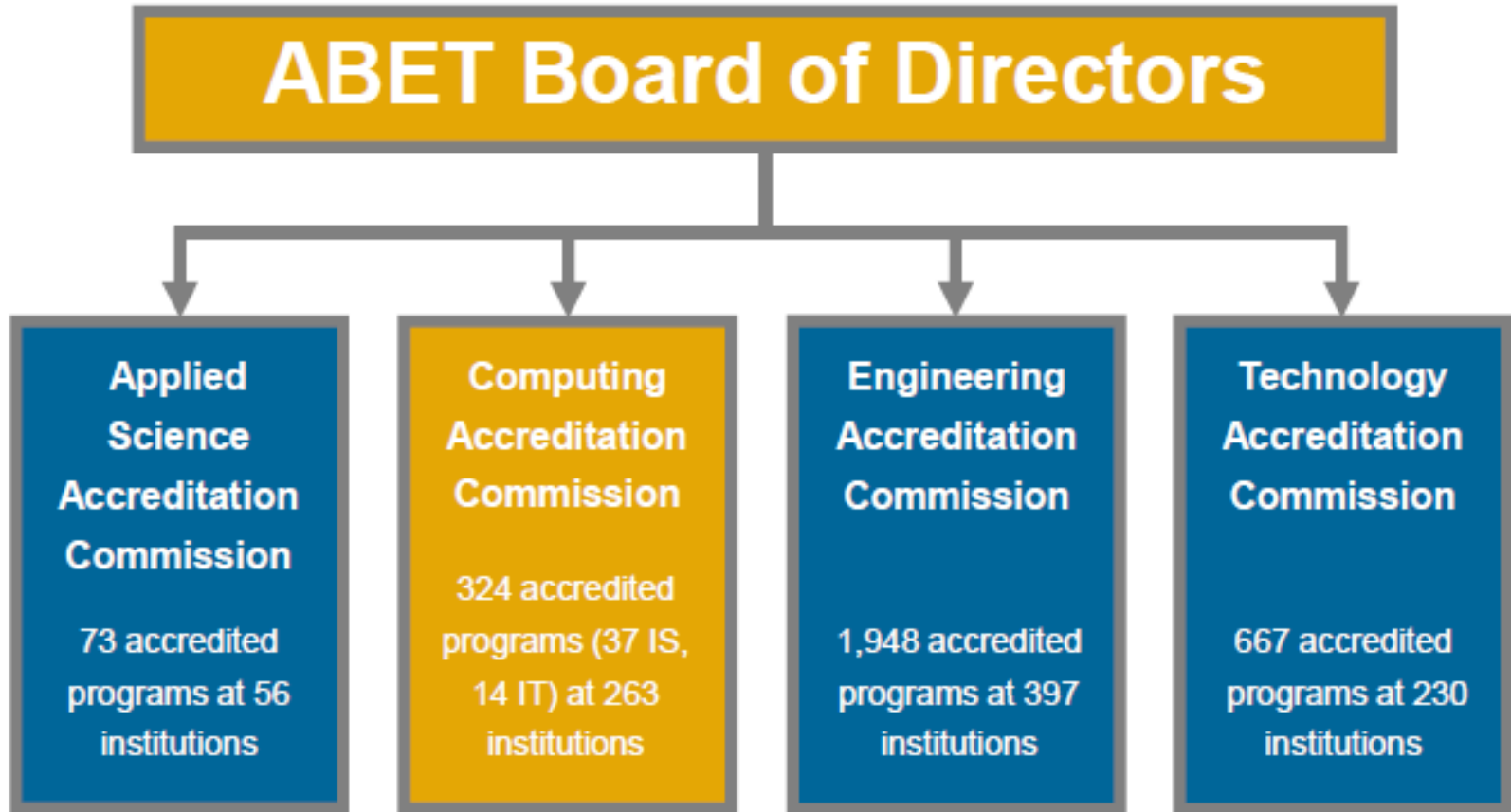
- **ABET Mission**

- ABET serves the public through the promotion and advancement of education in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. ABET will:
- Accredit educational programs.
- Promote quality and innovation in education.
- Consult and assist in the development and advancement of education worldwide in a financially self-sustaining manner.
- Communicate with our constituencies and the public regarding activities and accomplishments.
- Anticipate and prepare for the changing environment and the future needs of constituencies.
- Manage the operations and resources to be effective and fiscally responsible.

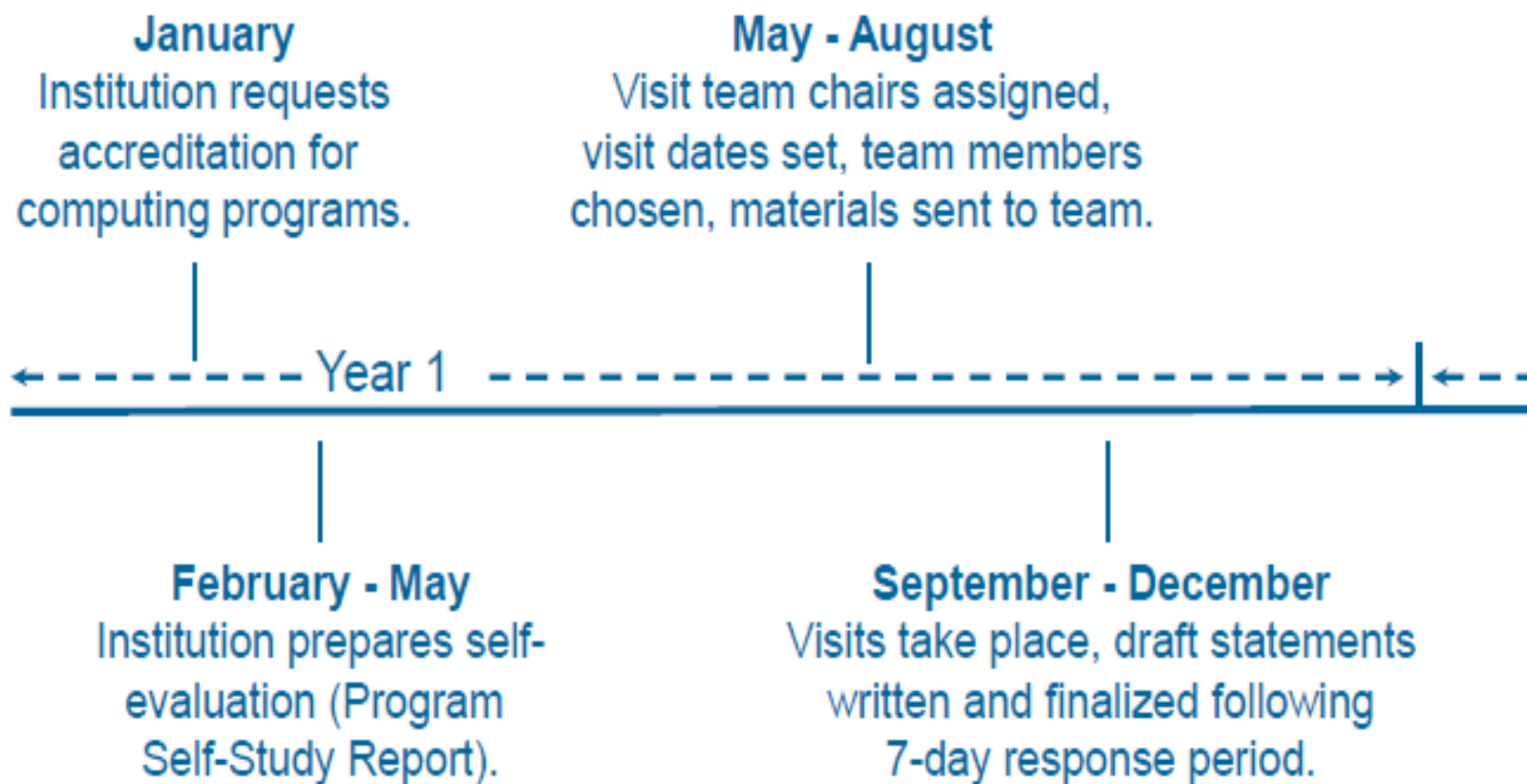
Why Pursue Accreditation?

- To identify programs meeting minimum criteria
- for accreditation
 - For prospective students, parents, government, employers, and the public
 - For programs that are intended to prepare graduates to enter the profession
- Assurance of a minimum level of quality
- Assurance that a program is what it claims to be
- Competitive advantage in a tight market = \$\$\$

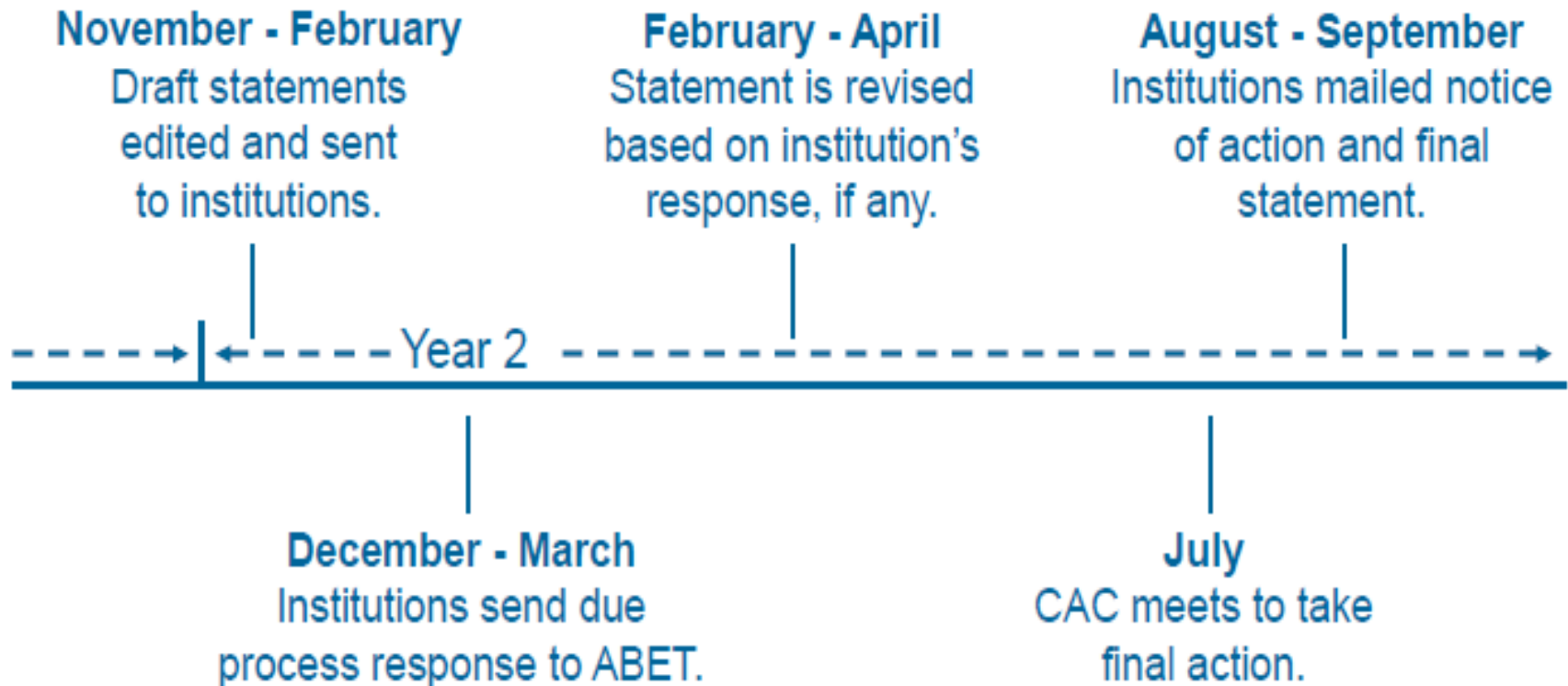
ABET Structure



The Accreditation Timeline for Year 1



The Accreditation Timeline for Year 2



Institutional Preparation

- Apply for ABET Visit (prior to January 31st)
- Prepare the self-study (due July 1st)
- Approve Team Chair & Visit team members
- Attend ABET Commission Summit in July
- Work with team chair to set visit date and agenda of meetings with constituencies
- Assemble course display materials and assessment materials for visit team
- Arrange team meeting room and assist team with visit logistics



The Visit

ANYWHERE UNIVERSITY - SCHEDULE FOR ABET VISIT			Date of Visit, 2010	
Date	Time		Team Member	Location
Sunday	mid-day	Team arrives at airport, and drive to campus	Team	
	2:30 pm ?	Team arrives at hotel	Team	
		Team arrives at campus	Team	
		- tour of facilities and laboratories w/ ???	Team	
		- team review of course materials (Dept. Chair available)	Team	
Monday	8:00-8:30	Opening Meeting with Department faculty/staff for introductory	Team	
	9:00-9:30	Dean	TC	
	9:00-9:30	Faculty interview	PEV1	
	9:00-9:30	Faculty interview	PEV2	
	9:30 - 10:00	Provost	TC	
	9:30 - 10:00	Faculty interview	PEV1	
	9:30 - 10:00	Faculty interview	PEV2	
	10:00-10:30	President	TC	
	10:00-10:30	Faculty interview	PEV1	
	10:00-10:30	Faculty interview	PEV2	
	10:30-11:00		TC	
	10:30-11:00	Faculty interview	PEV1	
	10:30-11:00	Faculty interview	PEV2	
	11:00-11:30		TC	
	11:00-11:30	Faculty interview	PEV1	
	11:00-11:30	Faculty interview	PEV2	
	11:30-1:00	Lunch - ABET Team, invited guests	Team	
	1:30-2:00		TC	
			Team	
			PEV1	
	Faculty interview	PEV2		
		Team		
		PEV1		
		PEV2		
	4:30-5:00	Dept Chair, informal discussion about issues, request for	Team	
	5:30 -7:30	Team Dinner	Team	
	7:30 - until	Team Work Session	Team	
Tuesday	8:00-8:30	Review and update with Dept. Chair	Team	
	8:30-12:00	Closed Team Meeting - review and prepare statement to in	Team	
	11:30-noon	Debrief Department Chair and Dean	TC	
	Noon-2:00	Working Team Lunch to finalize report	Team	
	2:00 - 3:00	Exit Report: President, Provost, Dean, and Dept. Chair	Team	

Post-Visit Activities


- Institution's 7-Day Response (optional)
 - Errors in fact only
- Draft Statement of Findings
 - Prepared by team, edited at two levels, then sent to the institution.
- Institution's Due Process Response
 - Due within 30 days of receipt of draft statement.
 - Programs are encouraged to solve problems quickly.
 - Describe and document changes made since the visit.
- Final Statement
 - Incorporates Due Process Response.
- Final Statement serves as the basis for the commission (CAC) action on accreditation at July meeting.
 - Institution may submit supplemental material up to the time of the annual CAC meeting.
- Final Statement and accreditation letter sent by ABET to the institution
- Only “Not to Accredite” can be appealed.

Personal Experiences & Observations

- Hire a consultant before the visit
 - Provides an unbiased outside view of things
 - Can assist in finding errors or omissions
- Get to know the visit team
 - Communicate early and often
 - Invite them to visit campus beforehand
 - Build a good relationship
- Don't try to hide shortcomings/problems
- Be open and honest with the team
- Get everyone on board (faculty, staff, students)
- Develop a timeline or plan for the visit



Personal Experiences & Observations

- View the visit and the process as positive
 - ABET wants schools to be accredited/reaccredited
 - They are not asking for anything unnecessary— you should be doing these things in any case!
- Take the visit team’s recommendations as constructive
 - The team just reports on findings,  it does not reaccredit – the commissions do
 - View the process as continuous improvement
 - Share best practices with others & learn from Them

ABET.org



Leadership and Quality Assurance in Applied Science,
Computing, Engineering, and Technology Education

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Registration Now Open for Partnering for Progress: The 2010 ABET Annual Conference!

Quick Links:

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ABET, Inc., the recognized accreditor for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology, is a federation of 30 professional and technical societies representing these fields. Among the most respected accreditation organizations in the U.S., ABET has provided leadership and quality assurance in higher education for over 75 years.

ABET currently accredits some 2,900 programs at more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide. Over 1,500 dedicated volunteers participate annually in ABET activities.

ABET also provides leadership internationally through workshops, consultancies, memoranda of understanding, and mutual recognition agreements, such as the Washington Accord.

ABET is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

*A note for Internet Explorer 8.0 users



Events

- ABET Headquarters Closed for Labor Day
September 6
- Commission Executive Committee Meetings
September 10-12
- ABET Board Executive Committee Meeting
September 24

[...more](#)

Latest News

- Robert Fredell, Ph.D., Joins ABET Staff as Managing Director for Accreditation
- 2011-12 Self-Study Questionnaires and New Interim Review Instructions Now Online
- Registration Open for 2010 ABET Annual Conference and October 27 Faculty Workshop
- 2009 ABET Annual Report Available for Download
- Gloria Rogers Launches New Program Assessment Blog

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Contribute to your profession and make a difference in higher education:
Become an ABET Program Evaluator.

Question & Answer

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ABET Website

www.ABET.org