

ABET Harmonization

What is Harmonization in ABET?, Why is ABET Doing This?, and What Does This Mean to MY ABET Accredited Program?

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- ❑ WHAT IS ABET HARMONIZATION?
 - ❑ WHY IS THIS BEING DONE?
 - ❑ WHAT ABOUT CRITERIA?
 - ❑ WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW TO PREPARE?
 - ❑ WHAT OTHER THINGS ARE INFLUENCED BY THIS?
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WHAT IS HARMONIZATION?

- Harmonization is an effort by ABET to standardize within its four commissions those criteria that are currently nearly identical in their essence.
 - Where possible, common language and definitions are to be used.
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WHAT IS HARMONIZATION?

- General Criteria To Be **Harmonized**:
 - **1 Students**
 - **2 Program Educational Objectives**
 - 3 Student Outcomes
 - **4 Continuous Improvement**
 - 5 Curriculum
 - 6 Faculty
 - **7 Facilities**
 - **8 Institutional Support**

 - And, some harmonized language in the other three non-harmonized criteria as well
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WHY HARMONIZE?

Two Main Reasons:

- Externally, Helps Some ABET Customers
- Internally, It Is ABET CQI

External

Some institutions host ABET Simultaneous Visits where teams from two or more commissions are visiting at the same time

Some programs have names that dictate ABET Joint Visits where multiple commissions must accredit a single program

These situations involve accreditation customers that greatly benefit from harmonization

Internal

- Over ten years ago, ABET started requiring outcomes based management for all of its accredited programs.
 - That requires a CQI component for us and ABET requires the same for itself.
 - As it reviews itself, ABET sees the value in this approach for its own operations.
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So What?

- Well, it sounds as if this doesn't really benefit my program directly.
 - Actually, it will. In positive ways is of course the goal. But you should keep this on your program's radar and take advantage. Let us consider first the ABET Criteria.
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WHAT ABOUT CRITERIA? (repeating Carl Locke!)

- Criteria are Basis of Evaluations
 - Up to Now, 4 Different Criteria
 - 2011 – 2012 Harmonized Criteria Will be Implemented (if approved by ABET Board in its October 2010 meeting.)
 - Criteria – Same Topics for Each Criterion
 - Definitions – Same
 - Some Differences by Commission
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WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW TO PREPARE? (Thank you, Carl!)

READ CRITERIA

- 2010 – 2011 VERSION
- 2011 – 2012 VERSION – SEE CHANGES PRINTED IN 2010 – 2011 VERSION

READ APPM

- SECTION II.G PROGRAM REVIEWS

PREPARE SELF STUDY

- USE APPROPRIATE SELF STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE
– www.abet.org/forms.shtml

NOTA BENE! The self study templates are new

Self Study Example (TAC)

CRITERION 6. FACULTY

Faculty Qualifications

Describe the qualifications of the faculty and how they are adequate to cover all the curricular areas of the program and also meet any applicable program criteria. This description should include the composition, size, credentials, and experience of the faculty. Complete Table 6-1. Include faculty resumes in Appendix B.

Self Study Example Appendix

Appendix B – Faculty Vitae

Please use the following format for the faculty vitae (2 pages maximum in Times New Roman 12 point type)

Name

Education – degree, discipline, institution, year

Academic experience – institution, rank, title (chair, coordinator, etc. if appropriate), when (ex. 1990-1995), full time or part time

Non-academic experience – company or entity, title, brief description of position, when (ex. 1993-1999), full time or part time

Example Continued

Certifications or professional registrations

Current membership in professional organizations

Honors and awards

Service activities (within and outside of the institution)

Briefly list the most important publications and presentations from the past five years – title, co-authors if any, where published and/or presented, date of publication or presentation

Briefly list the most recent professional development activities

And One More New Feature

Signature Attesting to Compliance

By signing below, I attest to the following:

That _____ (*Name of the program(s)*) has conducted an honest assessment of compliance and has provided a complete and accurate disclosure of timely information regarding compliance with ABET's *Criteria for Accrediting Technology Programs* to include the General Criteria and any applicable Program Criteria, and the ABET *Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual*.

Dean's Name (As indicated on the RFE)

Signature

Date

What can make tracking the changes easier?

- A useful aid is the ABET Reader's Guide. Each commission has one and the guide compares the exact changes to each commission's criteria (2009-2010 cycle) Available on line at www.abet.org in the "Resources for Programs" area and in a file set for those with a flash drive today.
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Example: EAC Criteria 4

(2008-2009 cycle)

Each program must show evidence of actions to improve the program. These actions should be based on available information, such as results from Criteria 2 and 3 processes.

EAC Harmonized Criteria 4 (current proposed version)

The program must regularly use appropriate, documented processes for evaluating the extent to which both the program educational objectives and the student outcomes are being obtained. The results of these evaluations must be used as input for the continuous improvement of the program. Other available information may also be used to in the continuous improvement of the program.

Readers Guide Commentary

The harmonized version of Criterion 4 requires the use of assessment data, which is stronger language than the current Criterion 4 with regards to Criteria 2 and 3 processes.

However, the use of other information is also allowed, as it is currently.

What Other Influences?

OK, I see the thrust of changes, but what other positive things do they influence?

Better trained Team Chairs and Program Evaluators

More consistency within and between visits

What about training

- Within the past three years, ABET has taken on the task of training all its new program evaluator volunteers. The new training is more extensive and includes simulations of visit key tasks. Harmonization has helped made this improvement possible.
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Team Chairs as well?

- Yes, these folks too. Starting this year, all new team chairs from all commissions receive an about eight hour on line training course.
“Consistency” is the new watch word.
 - And these new training activities are in addition to commission and discipline specific training, which continue.
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Anything Else?

- Accreditation does not happen in a vacuum. As members of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), ABET adheres to certain standards, such as the outcomes based philosophy.
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Anything Else II

- Other accreditation agencies around the world also oversee quality in their programs. To aid in establishing equivalence among programs, ABET is a signatory in the Washington Accords. This influences the process as well.
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Anything Else III

- I have included a few documents from these other agencies for you as well. Also, the current criteria which includes the harmonized versions as an appendix, and the self studies for all four commissions. Just stay after the questions with a flash drive and these are yours for additional study.
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QUESTIONS
