



ABET PROGRAM EVALUATORS: THE FACE OF QUALITY IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Industry, Government, and Business Professionals

Become an ABET Program Evaluator

Are you interested in shaping our future workforce while enhancing your professional skills? If so, consider becoming an ABET program evaluator and contributing to the continuous improvement of applied science, computing, engineering, and technology education. Serving on an ABET evaluation team for a degree program is not only professionally and personally rewarding, but it is also an important means of giving back to your profession and supporting its future advancement.

What Program Evaluators Do

Program evaluators are members of ABET teams that visit and evaluate degree programs seeking accreditation. The evaluator reviews the degree program against a set of criteria, which outline the requirements for students, faculty, facilities, curriculum, and other key program areas.

Reasons to Become a Program Evaluator

The benefit to both you and your employer includes continuous professional development in a number of important areas. Many organizations expect their employees to have the following attributes and evaluate them in terms of these skills. As an ABET program evaluator, you will use and further develop the following skills:

- **Communication Skills**
Written documentation of recommended accreditation actions and oral presentation of findings to the institution's administration.
- **Interpersonal Skills**
Interview and obtain input from faculty, administration, industry advisors, and students. Evaluate and constructively convey program strengths and weaknesses.
- **Working in Teams**
Work with team members to reach consensus and value team success over personal success.
- **Demonstrate Professional Behavior**
Make observations to stimulate innovation and further the program's efforts toward continuous improvement. Convey professional appearance and demeanor and show professional respect for the institution's administration, faculty, and staff.
- **Organizational Skills**
Meet deadlines. Focus on critical issues and avoid minutia. Take responsibility and work under minimum supervision.

Serving as a program evaluator provides the individual and their employer with opportunities to

- Stay current with educational curricula in rapidly changing technological fields.
- Maintain an ongoing exposure to a wide variety of institutions of higher education, their policies, processes, opportunities, and challenges.
- Interact directly with students from which future employees will be recruited.
- Obtain experience with a world-class peer review process, which has application to many organizations and environments.
- Exchange information with fellow program evaluators, faculty members, and institutional executives.



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Minimum Qualifications Required to Become an ABET Program Evaluator

As a minimum, program evaluators from industry or government must have the following qualifications:

- Formal education and recognized expertise in their field.
 - Degree appropriate to the field.
 - Experience in employment of graduates from appropriate programs.
- Demonstrated interest in improving education.
- Membership in one or more ABET member societies or willingness to become a member prior to applying to serve as a program evaluator. (Computing professionals: Membership in or willingness to join ACM, AIS, or IEEE/CS fulfills this minimum qualification.)
- Other minimum qualifications as determined by individual member societies.

How to Apply

Applications are reviewed by ABET member societies. If you would like more information on becoming an ABET volunteer, please visit www.abet.org/volunteer.shtml or contact your member society.

What ABET Is

ABET, Inc., is a federation of more than 25 professional and technical societies. Individual members of these societies — practicing professionals from industry, government, and academe — form the body of ABET through its program evaluators, its four accreditation commissions, and its Board of Directors. The four commissions include the Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ASAC), the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC), the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC), and the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC).

What ABET Does

ABET, Inc., is responsible for the specialized accreditation of educational programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. In the United States, accreditation is a non-governmental, peer-review process that assures the quality of the postsecondary education students receive. Educational programs volunteer to undergo this review periodically to determine if certain criteria are being met. Volunteers carry out all of these activities.

About ABET Accreditation

ABET accreditation is assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards established by the profession for which it prepares its students. For example, an accredited engineering program must meet the quality standards set by the engineering profession. An accredited computer science program must meet the quality standards set by the computing profession. It is important to understand, however, that accreditation is not a ranking system. It is simply assurance that a program meets established quality standards.

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