

EAC DEI Pilot Study

Report to Participating Institutions

Accreditation Cycle 2023-24

Prepared by EAC DEI Pilot Task Group, March 2024, Updated August 2024

Scope and Participation

Proposed modifications to Criterion 5 and Criterion 6, related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, were piloted in the 2023-24 accreditation cycle. One hundred fifty-nine programs at 30 institutions participated in the pilot. Participants included new and established programs from six countries on four continents. Twenty-five of the participating institutions were in the United States. All census bureau regions and divisions were represented by the participating institutions from 17 states. Fourteen of the participating institutions had fewer than five EAC accredited programs while seven had more than nine EAC accredited programs.

Participation in the pilot did not impact any accreditation actions. Programs who participated in the pilot submitted a supplemental self-study where they addressed DEI components incorporated in the proposed criteria changes. In this first year of the pilot, the information analyzed by the task group was limited to these (anonymized) self-study reports.

Observations

Some reports described efforts at the university level, some at the college level, some at the department level, and most described efforts at multiple levels. The reports for programs at some institutions were nearly identical while significant variations in the reports were observed among programs at other institutions. Many of the reports described general DEI efforts on their campus. Some reported extensive efforts while others reported more focused efforts. Most reported current efforts while some reported plans for future activity.

The submissions allowed the task group to identify changes to the self-study template that should provide more specific guidance to ensure that the self-studies address how the programs comply with the proposed criteria.

Next Steps

The pilot for the 2024-25 cycle will make use of a significantly modified self-study template aimed to aid programs in describing how they comply with the proposed criteria. In addition, training materials will be developed to ensure consistent application of the criteria.

On behalf of the Engineering Accreditation Commission, thank you for your participation in the pilot. Your submissions have allowed us to learn and improve on this important update to the EAC criteria. Updates on our progress towards the implementation of the modifications to Criterion 5 and Criterion 6 will be available on the ABET website.

Regards,

Lorraine Fleming, *EAC Chair, 2023-24*

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