



Teaching the Right Things The Right Way

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What is ABET?

- Originally the Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology
- Now, simply ABET with four Commissions
 - Applied Science (81 programs @ 63 institutions)
 - Computing (429 pgms @ 331 insts)
 - Engineering (2,437 pgms @ 500 insts)
 - Engineering Technology (640 pgms @ 216 insts)
- Industrial Hygiene is one of the “applied sciences”

ABET, ASAC & Industrial Hygiene

- **AIHA is a sponsoring society of ASAC**
- **the Academic Accreditation Committee is the conduit between ASAC and AIHA**
- **AIHA is responsible for developing and updating program-specific criteria for accreditation of industrial hygiene programs**
- **Currently ~35 programs accredited by ASAC**

Benefits of ABET Accreditation

- **Academic Institutions and Programs** offering degrees in industrial hygiene
- **Students** who graduate from ABET-accredited programs
- **Employers** (manufacturing industries, government and service industries) whose employees are graduates of ABET-accredited programs

ABET Benefits to Students

- **verifies program meets professional standards**
- **enhances employment opportunities**
- **supports entry into a technical profession**
- **establishes eligibility for scholarships, ABIH certification and other financial advantages**
- **paves the way to work professionally and on a global basis**

ABET Benefits to Institutions

- program has received recognition of quality
- promotion of “best practices” in education
- directly involves faculty/staff in continuous quality improvement processes
- accreditation based on “learning outcomes” rather than “teaching inputs”
- can easily determine acceptability of transfer credits

ABET Benefits to Employers

- ensures that graduate has met educational requirements necessary to enter profession
- provides opportunity for guidance to program by reflecting current and future needs
- enhances professional mobility of employees

The Accreditation Process

- Program requests evaluation
- Institution submits self-study report
- ASAC team visits institution's campus
- Draft report of findings is sent to program
- Program submits a "due process" response
- ASAC meets/acts on team's recommendation
- Program is notified of accreditation action

General ASAC Criteria

- Students
- Program Educational Objectives
- Student Outcomes
- Continuous Improvement
- Curriculum
- Faculty
- Facilities
- Institutional Support
- Specific Program Criteria

Industrial Hygiene Program Criteria

Baccalaureate Programs

specific student outcomes

“Core Faculty” with earned doctorates

most faculty with CIH; minimum of one

evidence of “professional activity”

full-time faculty administratively in charge

Industrial Hygiene Program Criteria

Master's Level Programs

admitted students must have a relevant

baccalaureate degree

minimum of one year advanced study

project that demonstrates mastery

problem-solving skills

appropriate research activity

full-time faculty administratively in charge

ASAC Proactivity

- Expansion of international interest
 - Middle East; Europe; Mexico; South America
- Pilot study with “partially-virtual” visits
 - Team chair on campus; PEVs access remotely
- Increasing interest from natural sciences
 - Pilot studies under “general criteria”
 - Modified criteria to include natural science
 - Approval to move to ANSAC

Recommended Path Forward

- Support expansion of accreditation into global academic programs
- Encourage move toward implementation of “virtual” evaluations of academic programs and other experiential activities
- Welcome the inclusion of natural/basic sciences in the accreditation process; these often are foundations for industrial hygienists