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