Software Engineering Accreditation
Lessons Learned by Visited Programs

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Defining Program Outcomes

- You must demonstrate a-k
- How far should your program outcomes “stray” from a-k?
- Map your outcomes to cover a-k
- Periodic review of outcomes themselves
Assessing the Outcomes

- Direct measures preferred to indirect ones
  - Target measures directly at outcomes
- Mechanisms for gathering the data
  - Evaluation of student course materials
  - Student portfolios
  - Student surveys
  - Co-op, employer evaluations
- Remove subjectivity to the extent possible

Assessing the Objectives

- Mapping outcomes to objectives
- Alumni surveys
- Employer surveys
  - Don't be surprised if they say no!
- Employer focus groups
  - Catch them when on campus for recruiting
- Periodic evaluation of objectives themselves
Other Criteria

- Criterion 4. Professional Component
  - How much CS can be counted as
    - Math/science
    - Engineering

- Criterion 8. Program Criteria
  - What is an acceptable SE program?
  - Proposed revision eliminates need for faculty to have practical software engineering experience.

Preparing for the Visit

- Outcome binders
  - One place for evaluator to find everything related to each of your program outcomes

- Other materials
  - Course binders
  - CD-Roms
  - Video tapes

- Communicate with program evaluation team while self-study is reviewed

- Mock evaluation
Continuous Improvement

- No longer a once every 6 years activity
- Program assessment is a high-level measurement
- Clearly define the process for
  - Data gathering
  - Analysis
  - Action planning
- Define a sustainable process
  - Don’t have to do everything every year
  - If a problem is identified – handle it
- Involve all faculty members
- A single person should be responsible for monitoring compliance

Other Comments

- Attend an ABET workshop
- Go to evaluator training
- Look at evaluation team forms on ABET site