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## 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
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## 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
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## 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
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## 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.
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## 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
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## 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
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## Other Comments

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