

A BIMONTHLY
PUBLICATION FOR
NCEES MEMBER BOARDS

From the Director

The summer of 2007 is shaping up to be a busy one for the Center. In May, our staff processed 109 new applications and released 72 completed evaluations. Numbers for June were even higher, and we anticipate an influx of applications arriving ahead of the October FE and PE exam administrations. This is based on the numbers from December 2006 and January 2007, when many Center applicants were registering for April's exams.

The Center is continuing to shorten the turnaround time for evaluating completed applications. As the Center's database of foreign institutions, programs, and courses continues to grow with each application, we look for the evaluation process to become faster. The Center's central objective remains producing thorough, consistent evaluations that provide Member Boards with the information they need when evaluating a candidate's qualifications for licensure.

Eva-Angela Adán
Center Director

The Application Process

- Step 1: Applicant completes the online application form and submits payment electronically.
- Step 2: Within three days of receipt, the Center electronically sends a letter to the applicant describing the documents needed to complete the application.
- Step 3: Staff verifies the authenticity of each document received. Applications with misrepresentations and/or alterations are invalidated and reported to the appropriate Member Board.
- Step 4: The evaluation is conducted, and courses matching the applicable ABET criteria are entered into the Center's database.
- Step 5: A detailed evaluation is written and sent to
 - The Member Board designated by the applicant (electronically)
 - The NCEES Records Program (electronically)
 - The applicant (via USPS)

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General Basic Criteria for Undergraduate Engineering Programs

- Mathematics and sciences: 32 credits of appropriate combination of mathematics and basic science
 - 16 of math beyond basic algebra and trigonometry
 - 16 hours of sciences, including chemistry and calculus-based physics. Life and earth sciences—but not computer science—coursework qualifies.
- Humanities and social sciences: 16 credits
 - These include foreign language and cultural studies coursework.
- Engineering science: 32 credits
- Engineering design: 16 credits
- Electives: 24 credits
 - These include all other university-level courses, including computer science, engineering economy, and business studies.

Q&A: Evaluating non-ABET Programs from U.S. Institutions

Although most of its applicants hail from abroad, the Center also provides education credential evaluations for some applicants who have graduated from U.S. institutions but whose engineering degrees are not from ABET-accredited programs.

Here are answers to some of the more common questions related to this type of credential evaluation.

How does the Center evaluate non-ABET accredited degrees earned in the United States?

The Center is able to provide evaluations of U.S.-based engineering degree programs as long as there is an applicable ABET criterion. The Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET accredits degree programs in engineering (ABET does not accredit the institutions themselves). When evaluating a degree from a non-ABET-accredited program, the Center's evaluators compare the applicant's coursework to the ABET criteria for accreditation (see column at left).

Does the Center evaluate engineering technology degrees?

Yes—if the Member Board selected by the applicant accepts this type of degree when granting licensure. If this is the case, the Center compares the applicant's engineering technology degree program with the criteria of the Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET.

Does the Center evaluate degrees from unaccredited academic institutions?

No. To be eligible for a credential evaluation, the applicant's degree-awarding institution (if based in the United States) must be accredited by a regional entity recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

In the next issue of *The Center Bulletin*:

- A sample evaluation explained in detail
- Common ABET deficiencies found in foreign degree programs
- Statistics from the first year of Center operations