

FAQs for ABET Survey to Determine degree of institutional interest in accreditation of “Cyber Sciences” or related program(s)

Background:

1. What is CEP?

The Cyber Education Project (CEP) at www.cybereducationproject.org is an initiative supported by a diverse group of computing professionals representing academic institutions, professional societies, government, and industry to develop undergraduate curriculum guidelines and a case for accreditation for educational programs in the “Cyber Sciences”.

2. What is “Cyber Sciences”?

For the purpose of this survey, “Cyber Sciences” is a place-holder name for programs which may include computing-based studies involving technology, people, and processes aligned in a way to enable “assured operations” in the presence of risks and/or adversaries. It could involve the creation, operation, analysis, and testing of secure computer systems (including network and communication systems) as well as the study of how to employ operations, reasonable risk taking, and risk mitigations.

3. What are the goals of the CEP committee?

The goals of the CEP include working with ABET, various other organizations and constituencies to:

- 1) Describe the opportunity for creation of ABET accreditation of programs with significant “cyber sciences” content.*
- 2) Sponsor or conduct studies and other activities to determine and provide rationale for development of ABET accreditation criteria*
- 3) Support various committees in their normal processes for creation or maturation of ABET accreditation criteria for “Cyber Sciences”.*

4. How can I learn more about the CEP?

Visit the CEP web site: www.cybereducationproject.org.

5. What is the purpose of the survey?

- To gauge the degree of interest in creation of an ABET accreditation criteria.*
- To identify institutions which have strong interest in reviewing and potentially piloting accreditation criteria.*

Survey Logistics:

6. Who are the recipients of the survey?

The recipients are the institutional points of contact identified in the ABET database for CAC accredited programs.

7. Why did I receive this survey?

You are the listed institutional point of contact in the ABET database for institutions with ABET accredited programs.

8. Who is administering the survey?
This survey is administered by ABET.
9. Who is the sponsor of the survey?
This survey is sponsored by the CEP.
10. When will the survey be conducted?
The survey will start on or about January 25th, 2016 and will be open for 4 weeks.
11. I was not a survey recipient, but I want to participate, what should I do?
Take an equivalent survey at the CEP web site. Instructions for taking the equivalent survey will be placed on the CEP Project Artifact page at www.cybereducationproject.org/project-artifacts
12. Is there another survey on this topic?
Yes. For populations not reached by the ABET administered survey, an equivalent survey will be available at the CEP web site.

Survey Results:

13. Who will have access to the information?
ABET (including the EAC and the CAC), CEP, CSAB, and the IEEE Committee for Accreditation Activities (IEEE CEAA).
14. Can others see the results of the survey?
Yes, but only the summary results (without the survey responder's name or contact information) will be publicly available, including on the CEP web site.
15. How will the information be utilized?
Various groups. e.g., CSAB, IEEE CEAA, CAC, EAC, CEP, may use the results to improve their decision making and determination of next steps toward creation of an ABET accreditation criteria. .

Accreditation Considerations:

16. What is the "Cyber Sciences" draft accreditation criteria?
*For the CAC:
The criteria is at pre-draft level, with a proposed "alpha" draft created by the CEP with a next step of consideration by a joint CSAB/CAC criteria committee. The CEP CAC proposed "alpha" draft will be published on the CEP Project Artifact page at www.cybereducationproject.org/project-artifacts following an anticipated presentation in March to the CSAB/CAC. The content is not final and will change as it matures.*
*For the EAC:
The CEP has not produced an "alpha" draft.*

Review by the CSAB/CAC does not inhibit or preclude other societies or organizations from consideration of accreditation aspects of "Cyber Sciences." "Cyber Sciences" is a broad field with aspects in many disciplines and programs, each of which, as appropriate to the discipline or program, may consider "Cyber Sciences". It is viewed that "Cyber Sciences" field is sufficiently broad that several disciplines and associated accreditation actions could arise to support this field.

17. The “Cyber Sciences” is not relevant to programs I am responding about in the survey, what should I do?
Indicate that you have no interest in participation.
18. What process was used to describe the field and create the draft criteria?
The CEP sponsored a Learning Outcomes committee surveyed, assessed, researched, sought input in multiple venues from multiple constituents. Based on their work, a collection of learning outcomes were identified and grouped into topic areas. This information was the primary input used by the CEP accreditation committee in the creation of an “alpha” draft criteria proposal. The CEP accreditation committee met multiple times to discuss and formed the draft text.
19. Are there other interested groups?
Yes
The CSAB/CAC has a committee to bring accreditation criteria changes through the formal ABET accreditation creation/modification process for the CAC. It is contemplated that the draft “Cyber Sciences” criteria will become a topic of discussion in 2016. The ACM/IEEE-CS/CEP has formed a committee to focus on curriculum and student outcomes. The IEEE CEAA has a committee to bring accreditation criteria changes through the formal ABET accreditation creation/modification process for the EAC (in the context of the IEEE). There may be other interested groups.
20. When will this process finish?
Accreditation criteria changes are a multi-year process with involvement by multiple groups. This effort is toward the beginning of the process. Schedule clarity is anticipated in 2016, as the CAC, EAC, ABET, and other groups continue to be engaged and the results of this survey are analyzed.
21. I don’t agree with the term “Cyber Sciences” .
For the purpose of this survey, “Cyber Sciences” is a place-holder name for programs. This survey is not collecting data on program names, or suggesting program names, or obtaining feedback on the place-holder name “Cyber Sciences”.
22. What will be the name used by ABET for the new program criteria, if not “Cyber Sciences”?
This is not known. Program name identification and linkage with criteria is accomplished within the ABET accreditation criteria creation/modification processes. It is also plausible that there could be more than one program name associated with “Cyber Sciences” concepts or topics.
23. Will the name used by ABET for programs accredited with a focus on something related to “Cyber Sciences” be required to have the term “cyber” within the name?
This is not known. Program name identification and linkage with criteria is accomplished within the ABET accreditation criteria creation/modification processes. However, it is contemplated that program names will not be have to be of the form “Cyber xxxx”. A contemplated program name, for example, could be Information Assurance or Network Security.

FAQ Considerations:

24. One of the FAQs is wrong, what can I do?

Send an email to cepaccreditationcochair.steven@gmail.com with subject starting with "FAQ Question - Update" with the correction.

25. I have a suggestion for new "question" or the answer to an existing question can be improved, what do I do?

Send your new "question" and its answer if known, or the improved answer to an existing question to cepaccreditationcochair.steven@gmail.com with subject starting with "FAQ Question - New".