



ABET
111 Market Place, Suite 1050
Baltimore, MD 21202
Phone: +1.410.347.7700
Fax: +1.410.625.2238
www.abet.org
accreditation@abet.org

Applied Science Accreditation Commission
Computing Accreditation Commission
Engineering Accreditation Commission
Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission

August 24, 2012

Edwin L. Thomas
Dean of Engineering
Rice University
George R. Brown School of Engineering
MS-364
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX
Dear Thomas :

The Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET recently held its 2012 Summer Meeting to act on the program evaluations conducted during 2011-2012. Each evaluation was summarized in a report to the Commission and was considered by the full Commission before a vote was taken on the accreditation action. The results of the evaluation for Rice University are included in the enclosed Summary of Accreditation Actions. The Final Statement to your institution that discusses the findings on which each action was based is also enclosed.

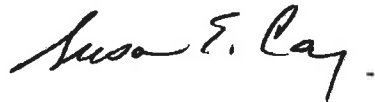
The policy of ABET is to grant accreditation for a limited number of years, not to exceed six, in all cases. The period of accreditation is not an indication of program quality. Any restriction of the period of accreditation is based upon conditions indicating that compliance with the applicable accreditation criteria must be strengthened. Continuation of accreditation beyond the time specified requires a reevaluation of the program at the request of the institution as noted in the accreditation action. ABET policy prohibits public disclosure of the period for which a program is accredited. For further guidance concerning the public release of accreditation information, please refer to Section II.A. of the 2011-2012 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

A list of accredited programs is published annually by ABET. Information about ABET accredited programs at your institution will be listed in the forthcoming ABET Accreditation Yearbook and on the ABET web site (www.abet.org).

It is the obligation of the officer responsible for ABET accredited programs at your institution to notify ABET of any significant changes in program title, personnel, curriculum, or other factors which could affect the accreditation status of a program during the period of accreditation stated in Section II.H. of the 2011-2012 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

Please note that appeals are allowed only in the case of Not to Accredite actions. Also, such appeals may be based only on the conditions stated in Section II.L. of the 2011-2012 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan E. Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dash at the end.

Susan E. Conry, Chair
Engineering Accreditation Commission

Enclosure: Summary of Accreditation Action
Final Statement

cc: David Leebron, President
Janice Bordeaux, Associate Dean of Engineering
W. Vance McCollough, Visit Team Chair



8/24/2012

ABET
Engineering Accreditation Commission
Summary of Accreditation Actions
for the
2011-2012 Accreditation Cycle

Rice University
Houston, TX

Bioengineering (BSB)

Accredit to September 30, 2018. A request to ABET by January 31, 2017 will be required to initiate a reaccreditation evaluation visit. In preparation for the visit, a Self-Study Report must be submitted to ABET by July 01, 2017. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.

This is a newly accredited program. Please note that this accreditation action extends retroactively from October 01, 2009.

Chemical Engineering (BSChE)
Civil Engineering (BSCE)
Electrical Engineering (BSEE)
Mechanical Engineering (BSME)

Accredit to September 30, 2018. A request to ABET by January 31, 2017 will be required to initiate a reaccreditation evaluation visit. In preparation for the visit, a Self-Study Report must be submitted to ABET by July 01, 2017. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.



Engineering Accreditation Commission

Final Statement of Accreditation
to

Rice University
Houston, Texas

2011-12 Accreditation Cycle

Leadership and Quality Assurance in Applied Science, Computing, Engineering, and Technology Education

**ABET
ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION**

**RICE UNIVERSITY
Houston, TX**

**FINAL STATEMENT
Visit Dates: Nov 13-15, 2011
Accreditation Cycle Criteria: 2011-2012**

Introduction

The Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET has evaluated the bioengineering, chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering programs of Rice University.

This statement is the final summary of the EAC evaluation, at the institutional and engineering-program levels. It includes information received during due process, including information submitted with the seven-day response. This statement consists of two parts: the first deals with the overall institution and its engineering operation, and the second deals with the individual engineering programs. It is constructed in a format that allows the reader to discern both the original visit findings and subsequent progress made during due process.

A program's accreditation action is based upon the findings summarized in this statement. Actions depend on the program's range of compliance or non-compliance with the criteria. This range can be construed from the following terminology:

- **Deficiency:** A deficiency indicates that a criterion, policy, or procedure is not satisfied. Therefore, the program is not in compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure.
- **Weakness:** A weakness indicates that a program lacks the strength of compliance with a criterion, policy, or procedure to ensure that the quality of the program will not be compromised. Therefore, remedial action is required to strengthen compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure prior to the next evaluation.

- **Concern:** A concern indicates that a program currently satisfies a criterion, policy, or procedure; however, the potential exists for the situation to change such that the criterion, policy, or procedure may not be satisfied.
- **Observation:** An observation is a comment or suggestion that does not relate directly to the accreditation action but is offered to assist the institution in its continuing efforts to improve its programs.

Rice University is a private, independent institution founded in 1912. It is comprised of eight schools, including the George R. Brown School of Engineering, which was established in 1975 in recognition of the growth of the engineering programs at the institution. Currently the School of Engineering has eight departments with approximately 1,170 undergraduate students and 113 faculty members. The engineering faculty is actively engaged in support of the institution's residential college system, serving as advisors. Approximately 60 percent of the undergraduate students participate in faculty research projects.

The following units were interviewed and found to adequately support the engineering programs: biochemistry and cell biology, bioscience research collaborative, chemistry, engineering and campus IT/computer support, library, mathematics, and physics.

Institutional Strengths

1. The Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK) provides a unique design experience for all students in the School of Engineering. The combination of the modern facilities, which support all phases of the engineering design process, and the opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration among students make significant contributions to the student's design experience as evidenced by both the quality of the projects and students' success in national design competitions.
2. The college provides substantial financial support to its student organizations. This support has resulted in a high level of participation by students on campus and enabled student leaders of the organizations to be active at the national level.

**Electrical Engineering
Program**Introduction

The electrical engineering (ECE) program includes three specialization areas: computer engineering, photonics and nanoengineering, and systems. The program enrolls 78 undergraduate students and graduated 36 students in spring 2011. The program has 20 tenured/tenure track faculty members, two professors in the practice, and seven adjunct faculty members. The ECE undergraduate committee advises students who have declared an ECE major and is composed of seven members with faculty from each of the three specializations.

Program Strengths

1. Ease of accessibility and availability of faculty was consistently mentioned by the students as a significant benefit. This facilitates academic and career advising, students obtaining research or work opportunities, mentoring for the senior design project, and day-to-day assistance with classes.
2. Flexibility of the curriculum allows students to individualize their course schedule and pursue a wide variety of options.

Program Concern

1. Criterion 4. Continuous Improvement This criterion requires that the program must regularly use appropriate, documented processes for assessing and evaluating the extent to which the student outcomes are being attained. The program lists nine outcomes which are mapped to the Criterion 3 student outcomes (a) through (k). Currently, Criterion 4 is being met; however, due to the complexity of the mapping of the program outcomes, the possibility exists that in the future, not all of the student outcomes (a) through (k) will be assessed and evaluated.
 - Due-process response: The program did not provide a response to this shortcoming.

- The concern remains unresolved.
2. Criterion 7. Facilities This criterion requires that facilities must be adequate to support attainment of student outcomes and provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. Currently, the students from several programs use the facilities of the on-campus Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen to model, prototype, and build their projects. Enough space currently exists, though teams are forced to share bench space. With the institution's projected increase in enrollment, the possibility exists that this space will no longer be adequate to meet the needs of the students. If the design kitchen is not available to all students in the future the quality of the college's design experience could be adversely affected.
- Due-process response: The program did not provide a response to this shortcoming.
 - The concern remains unresolved.

[< Search Results](#)

RICE UNIVERSITY

Houston TX, US

www.rice.edu >

[Historically Accredited Programs](#) >

 [Download Search Results](#)

BIOENGINEERING, BSB

Accredited, 10/01/2009-Present

Accredited Locations:

Main Campus

Date of Next Comprehensive Review:

2017-2018

Accredited By:

Engineering Accreditation Commission

Criteria:

Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering

International Mutual Recognition Agreement:

Washington Accord | Bilateral Engineers Canada > (<http://www.abet.org/mutual-recognition-agreements/>) **

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, BSCHE

Accredited, 10/01/1941-Present

Accredited Locations:

Main Campus

Date of Next Comprehensive Review:

2017-2018

Accredited By:

Engineering Accreditation Commission

Criteria:

Chemical Engineering

International Mutual Recognition Agreement:

Washington Accord | Bilateral Engineers Canada > (<http://www.abet.org/mutual-recognition-agreements/>) **

CIVIL ENGINEERING, BSCE

Accredited, 10/01/1936-Present

Accredited Locations:

Main Campus

Date of Next Comprehensive Review:

2017-2018

Accredited By:

Engineering Accreditation Commission

Criteria:

Civil Engineering

International Mutual Recognition Agreement:

Washington Accord | Bilateral Engineers Canada > (<http://www.abet.org/mutual-recognition-agreements/>) **

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, BSEE

Accredited, 10/01/1936-Present

Accredited Locations:

Main Campus

Date of Next Comprehensive Review:

2017-2018

Accredited By:

Engineering Accreditation Commission

Criteria:

Electrical and Electronics Engineering

International Mutual Recognition Agreement:

Washington Accord | Bilateral Engineers Canada > (<http://www.abet.org/mutual-recognition-agreements/>) **

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, BSME

Accredited, 10/01/1936-Present

Accredited Locations:

Main Campus

Date of Next Comprehensive Review:

2017-2018

Accredited By:

Engineering Accreditation Commission

Criteria:

Mechanical Engineering

International Mutual Recognition Agreement:

Washington Accord | Bilateral Engineers Canada > (<http://www.abet.org/mutual-recognition-agreements/>) **

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**Users must review details for each Accord to determine if their program is recognized internationally.

Last Updated: October 01, 2017

ABET 415 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 Phone +1410.347.7700

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