

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – I
DATE: December 4-6, 2018

SUBJECT

Requests to Seek Accreditation – DSU

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 1:10](#) – Relationship of Curriculum and Instruction to Statutory Objectives

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Board of Regents Policy 1:10 specifies that “Each campus must seek and receive Board approval before applying for initial accreditation or an expanded scope of accreditation for academic programs.” In accordance with Board policy, Dakota State University requests approval to seek accreditation from ABET for their BS in Computer Science program (Attachment I).

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, awards institutional accreditation for higher education institutions in South Dakota. A variety of unique organizations award specialized/program accreditation within distinct programs or departments at Regental institutions. A general reference document on institutional and specialized/program accreditation is available on the academic Reports and Accountability [webpage](#) of the BOR website.

- [Special Analysis: Accreditation in Higher Education](#)

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

Accreditation informs prospective students, peers, and professionals that the program has received recognition of its quality and that its instructors possess adequate qualifications and the necessary academic credentials to teach. The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) is a nationally recognized organization that accredits programs in applied and natural science, computing engineering, and engineering technology. Specifically, DSU is seeking accreditation for their Computer Science based programs (to include Cyber Operations and Information Science) offered on-campus and online. DSU estimates a total expense of \$4,940 for their program to receive initial accreditation.

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20181204_5-I:

I move to approve DSU’s request to seek accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for their BS in Computer Science Engineering program.

In addition to the aforementioned direct costs, there are a number of ongoing indirect costs that the institution will incur related to teaching load, minimum qualifications of faculty, research expectations and the necessary operational expenses that the institution will incur. In addressing these indirect costs, DSU does not project additional costs to students in the form of extra lab fees or equipment (software or hardware costs). As a result, an increase to the current discipline/program fees attached to the affected prefixes will not be necessary for DSU to seek and then maintain this accreditation.

If approved by the Board of Regents, DSU will become the fourth institution in the Regental system to obtain ABET accreditation (currently SDSM&T, SDSU & USD are accredited through this organization). Despite this apparent overlap, the desire to seek accreditation for existing programs does align closely with the Board of Regents 2020 Strategic plan, and is consistent with the strategic imperatives outlined for the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. These points of strategic importance include having quality faculty, having an innovative undergraduate and graduate curriculum, having substantive connections with agencies and corporations, producing success in extramural funding, and possessing integrated and interdisciplinary research and development. To accomplish these goals, DSU will need peer and accreditation recognition.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Request to Seek Accreditation Form: BS in Computer Sciences (DSU)



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

Request to Seek Accreditation

Use this form to request permission to seek accreditation of an approved program. Board of Regents (BOR) action is required to seek program accreditation.

UNIVERSITY:	DSU
PROGRAM:	B.S. Computer Science
CIP CODE:	11.0101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Academic Affairs

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

J. M. Gustafson

President of the University

9/7/2018

Date

1. Level of program seeking accreditation (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Certificate

 Associate

 Bachelor's
 Doctoral

 Master's

2. Accrediting Agency:

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology: ABET
415 North Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

3. What are the advantages of accreditation?

ABET accredits college and university programs in the disciplines of applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology at the associate, bachelor and master degree levels. With ABET accreditation, students, employers and the society we serve can be confident that a program meets the quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce. ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical

value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

4. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including: Readiness Reviews

Fee for each program reviewed	\$1,000
On-Site Reviews	
Base fee for an on-site review	\$3,250
Fee for each program evaluator (PEV)	\$3,250

ADDITIONAL FEES

One evaluator reviewing two programs	\$345
Extra day, per program evaluator	\$345
Visit to off-campus location, per location	\$345

Annual Maintenance - This fee covers the upkeep of accreditation data files, review of institutional materials, and the publication and distribution of annual lists of accredited programs. Fee for accredited program at each campus \$690. ABET Symposium Annual \$1100/participant plus travel

- A. Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation: \$1,000 + \$3,250
- B. Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits: \$690
- C. Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE): Workload for ABET accreditation assumed by the Beacom College (~ 1.0 FTE), total contributions from champion and faculty collaborators.

5. What is the source of the revenue needed?

Operating accounts

6. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?

Sept. 1, 2018 – Request for Readiness Review
 Oct. 1, 2018 – Readiness Review
 Jan. 1, 2018 – Request for Evaluation
 April 11-12, 2018 ABET Symposium
 July 1, 2019 – Self-study report
 2019-2020 – campus visit