

Recruitment for ASCE members as PEVs

Have an abiding interest in engineering education?

Not afraid of making a time commitment in order to play a role in making sure that engineering education continues to evolve and improve?

Interested in spending some time on a college campus talking to engineering educators and students?

If you've answered yes to all of the above, ASCE and ABET, Inc. would like to hear from you—apply to be an educational program evaluator!

ABET, Inc. is the accrediting agency for all engineering educational programs in the United States (and many around the globe). ASCE is the lead society for ABET program areas in architectural, civil, and construction engineering. Since graduation from an ABET-accredited program is usually a criterion to become licensed to practice engineering in the United States, accreditation is critical for viable programs. A key person in the accreditation process is the educational program evaluator (PEV)—ASCE and ABET need volunteers to serve in this important role for architectural (especially), civil, and construction engineering programs.

What do PEVs do?

PEVs volunteer through ASCE (an ABET member society) to evaluate postsecondary degree-granting programs in architectural, civil, and/or construction engineering. PEVs are dedicated engineering professionals with interests in contributing to the profession and improving engineering education. Evaluators are team players, respected in their fields and by their peers, and often active in ASCE. Good communication skills as well as interpersonal and organizational skills are musts for successful PEVs.

Engineering programs (not departments) are evaluated against a set of general and program-specific criteria developed, in the case of architectural, civil, and construction engineering, by ASCE through ABET. The criteria include requirements for faculty, facilities, curriculum, and other key areas. Basically, PEVs determine if the criteria are met.

Before getting their first evaluation assignment, PEVs participate in a formal training program which helps them understand the evaluation process and become conversant with all of the applicable criteria and procedures.

Who are PEVs?

The qualifications for being a PEV are straightforward. A PEV must have:

1. A demonstrated interest in improving engineering education.
2. Current registration as a professional engineer in the United States.
3. At least 10 years of experience in the practice of engineering (e.g., in industry, private practice, construction, engineering education).
4. A willingness to conduct visits and perform all associated activities in accordance with ASCE and ABET requirements.
5. Membership in ASCE at the Member or Fellow grade.

In addition, the reviewing committee will give preference to individuals who possess the following qualifications:

6. For civil engineering, a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related area from an EAC/ABET accredited program and a master's degree or PhD in civil engineering or related area OR a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering or related area from an institution with an ABET-accredited civil engineering program. For architectural or construction engineering, an ABET-accredited Bachelors degree in engineering.
7. A history of service to ASCE.

In addition to the qualifications above, ASCE is extremely interested in assembling a pool of PEVs that is more representative of its diverse demographics.

What happens on a campus visit?

Work begins with the receipt of a self-study report, submitted to ABET by a program seeking accreditation. The report contains general information about the program and institution and, most importantly, details on how the program meets the accreditation criteria. The PEV thoroughly reviews the information and, if needed, communicates with the program/institution directly to resolve any ambiguities or to answer any questions.

The PEV travels to campus on a fall Saturday (or Sunday) with PEVs for other programs and a team chair. On campus, the PEV spends about two days investigating the assigned program. Activities typically include talking to students and faculty, meeting with advisory boards, observing classes, surveying lab facilities, and reviewing course materials and student work.

Based on a review of the self-study report and observations made on campus, the PEV drafts a statement on how well the program meets the criteria. This statement is submitted to the team chair (along with other forms) and incorporated as part of an exit statement to the program and institution at the end of the on-campus visit (typically on Tuesday).

The PEV returns home, completes various paperwork, and submits a copy of the entire report to ASCE. The PEV may also need to respond to follow-up questions from the team chair before the final accreditation decision is made.

Interested?

For additional information, call: Dion Coward, 703-295-6267.

Ready to apply? What are you waiting for? Visit www.abet.org/volunteer.shtml to sign on and get additional information!