

A Note to Former, Current and Future Engineering Technology Students at Bismarck State College

ABET Accreditation Changes Coming to Engineering Technology at Bismarck State College

The Engineering Technology program at BSC trains students in many areas, including surveying, drafting, materials testing, and construction inspecting. For students with an interest in surveying, graduates will usually begin their careers as surveying technicians, and if so inclined, they may opt to pursue a career as a professional surveyor following the approved path to licensure.

During the 2019 ND Legislative Session, changes to the ND Century Code were approved for individuals seeking licensure as professional surveyors. Specifically, the updated legislation indicates that *after June 30, 2028*, the qualifications for land surveyor interns (a first step toward licensure) must include a minimum education component obtained with a 4 year degree, 2 year degree, or certificate from a “board-approved program” with land surveying education as a component for all of the approved paths (the “board” indicated here is the ND State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors). Prior to this legislative update, the qualifications for land surveyor interns did not have minimum education component but it did include the phrase “board-approved program.”

How Does This Change Impact Engineering Technology at BSC?

The current curriculum for the Engineering Technology program is considered “board-approved.” However, because the current curriculum has fewer surveying related credits than most programs that lead to surveying licensure, in large part due to the credit breakdown requirements for *ABET accreditation, the board included *ABET accreditation in its decision to make the program “board-approved.”

In response to the ND Century Code changes, there are also ND Administrative Code changes being proposed that will allow the board to determine what education components are required for a program to be considered “board-approved.” The proposed changes to the ND Administrative Code will require a minimum of 24 surveying related credits broken down as follows: a minimum of 4 credits in drafting/CAD/GIS, a minimum of 10 credits in basic Land Surveying, and minimum of 10 credits in Principles and Practices of Land Surveying. Additionally, the plan requires a minimum of 6 credits in oral and written communication.

In response to the ND Century Code update and in preparation for the ND Administrative Code requirements, the Engineering Technology program curriculum is being updated for the 2021-2021 Academic Year to include additional surveying related courses. The addition of these course, along with other adjustments to the curriculum, will satisfy the updated surveying related and communication minimum credits requirements.

Because the *ABET accreditation requirement was used to meet the old definition of “board-approved” and not the newer definition of “board-approved”, the decision has been made to allow the *ABET accreditation for the Engineering Technology program at BSC to expire without renewal on September 30, 2022, the expiration date for the current accreditation cycle. This will allow students who are currently in the program and expected to graduate on or before Spring, 2022 on the current curriculum to meet the current “board-approved” requirements and for those starting the program in Fall, 2021 or after to meet the updated requirements using the new curriculum.

Questions on this change can be directed to Engineering Technology Program Coordinator David Sagsveen at 701-224-5443 or David.Sagsveen@bismarckstate.edu.

**ABET is a non-profit, non-governmental accrediting agency that accredits science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology related programs at the 4-year and 2-year levels worldwide. The Engineering Technology program is accredited through September 30, 2022 through the ETAC division of ABET. Information on ABET can be found at www.abet.org.*