ABET Accreditation of IS and IT Programs in 2013

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The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) has been accrediting engineering and computer science for many years. In recent years ABET has been accrediting Information Systems and Information Technology programs. ABET first accredited IS in 2000 and IT in 2003. ABET appears to have become the standard accreditation for IT and in the spring of 2014 there are 25 IT programs accredited by ABET. There are 38 IS programs accredited by ABET since 2000. This paper looks at the IS and IT ABET accredited programs and examines the common features and differences of these related accredited programs.

BACKGROUND

The topic of ABET accreditation of IS programs has been a topic of interest since 2000, as can be seen by the papers written on this topic, as shown in the references. There were many papers written on ABET accreditation of IS programs in 2000-2005 but the number of papers slowed down after 2010. This paper will give an update to the accreditation of IS and IT programs by ABET up to 2013 and will show the characteristics of ABET accredited IS and IT programs. The information in the following tables was acquired by visiting the web sites of the various universities. These pages are continually updated so the data that will be available in the future might not match the data used for this paper.

ABET ACCREDITATION OF IS PROGRAMS

The ABET accreditation of IS programs started in 2000 and for 10 years there was a steady growth of accredited IS programs. However in the past 4 years there have only been 3 IS programs accredited, as can be seen in Table 1. At one time it appeared that ABET accreditation of IS programs might become the standard IS accreditation like ABET is the standard accreditation for engineering and computer science. However, at this time it does not appear that ABET will be the standard accreditation for IS programs.

TABLE 1
THE NUMBER OF IS PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY YEAR

Year Program Was Accredited	No of IS Programs Accredited	Year Program Was Accredited	No of IS Programs Accredited
2000	1	2007	2
2001	6	2008	3
2002	3	2009	3
2003	3	2010	1
2004	4	2011	2
2005	3	2012	0
2006	4	2013	0
		Total 2000-2013	**38**

ABET ACCREDITATION OF IT PROGRAMS

In Table 2 below, it can be seen that ABET accreditation of IT programs began in 2000 and there has been a steady growth of IT programs accredited by ABET, although this growth slowed down in 2012 and 2013. In Table 4 it can be seen that most IT programs are not in Colleges of Business, so IT programs do not have many options as to who will accredit them. It is possible that over time, ABET will become the standard accreditation for IT programs.

TABLE 2
THE NUMBER OF IT PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY YEAR

Year Program Was Accredited	No of IT Programs Accredited	Year Program Was Accredited	No of IT Programs Accredited
2003	3	2009	2
2004	1	2010	3
2005	3	2011	2
2006	2	2012	0
2007	5	2013	1
2008	2		
		Total 2003-2013	**25**

CHARACTERISTICS OF ABET ACCREDITED IS PROGRAMS

The vast majority of IS programs are in colleges of business and they are often accredited by AACSB. In Table 3, there are several characteristics of ABET accredited IS programs that stand out. Most IS programs in colleges of business offer a BBA IS degree. In Table 3 below, it can be seen that of the 38 ABET accredited IS programs, 35 of them offer BS degrees. Another characteristic that stands out is that most of the ABET accredited IS programs are not offered in Colleges of Business.

TABLE 3
ABET ACCREDITED IS PROGRAMS IN 2013

#	University	ABET Acred Year	Department	IS Title	Deg	College
1	Arkansas Tech	2006	C & Info Science	IS	BS	Applied Science
2	California SU, Chico	2008	Acct & MIS	MIS	*BS*	*Business*
3	California U of Penn	2008	Math, CS & IS	CIS	BS	Science & Tech
4	Drexel U	2001	None	IS	BS	IS & Technology
5	East Tennessee SU	2010	Computing	IS	BS	Coll of Bus & Tech
6	Fitchburg State College	2006	Computer Science	CIS	BS	None
7	Florida Memorial U	2008	CS & Math	CIS	BS	School of Arts & Sci
8	Gannon	2004	Computer & Info Sci	MIS	BS	Hum, Bus & Educ
9	Grand Valley SU	2007	School of Comp IS	IS	BA	Engineering & Comp
10	Illinois State U	2001	School of IT	MIS	BiS	School of IT
11	Jacksonville SU	2003	Math, Computing IS	CIS	BS	Arts & Science
12	James Madison	2003	CIS & Mgmt Sci	CIS	*BS*	*Business*
13	Kennesaw State U	2002	CS & IS	IS	BS	Science & Math
14	Metropolitan S College	2005	CIS	MIS	*BS*	*School of Business*
15	NJ Institute of Tech	2002	IS	IS	BS	Computing Sciences
16	Pace U	2000	None	IS	BS	School of CS & IS
17	Quinnipiac U	2005	Info Sys Mgmt	ISM	*BS*	*School of Business*
18	Radford U	2008	Info Tech	IS	BS	Science & Tech
19	Regis U	2010	None	CIS	BS	School of C & IS
20	Robert Morris U	2001	CIS	ISM	BS	School of Comm IS
21	Rowan U	2006	None	MIS	BS	*Business*
22	Slippery Rock	2003	Computer Science	IS	BS	Bus, Info & Social Sci
23	Southern Utah U	2009	CSIS, Sch Comp Tech	IS	BS	Science & Engin
24	SUNY Brockport	2011	CIS	CIS	BS	*Sch of Bus Admin Econ*
25	U of Tampa	2009	Info & Tech Mgmt	MIS	BS	*Business*
26	U Arkansas, Little Rock	2006	Info Sc	IS	BS	Engineering & IT
27	U Houston, C of Tech	2009	Info & Logistics Tech	CIS	BS	Technology
28	U Houston-Clear Lake	2004	Comp & Math Div	CIS	BS	Sch of Science Engin
29	U Nebraska, Omaha	2002	IS & Quant	MIS	BS	IS & Technology
30	U North Alabama	2006	CS & IS	CIS	*BBA*	*Business*
31	U North Florida	2001	C & IS Sciences	IS	BS	School of Computing
32	U of South Alabama	2001	C & IS	IS	BS	School of Comp & IS
33	U South Carolina	2004	Computer Sci & Engin	BIS	BS	Engin & Computing
34	Utah S U	2005	Computer Science	CS	BS	Science
35	Utah Valley U	2007	IS & Tech	IS	BS	Tech Computing
36	Virginia Commonwealth	2001	IS	IS	BS	*School of Business*
37	West Texas A&M U	2011	CI & DM	CIS	BBA	*College of Business*
38	Wright SU	2004	IS & Oper Mgmt	MIS	BS	*College of Business*

In addition to offering a BS degree and not being located in a college of business, ABET accredited IS programs are often located in more technical oriented colleges. As can be seen in Table 5, universities offering ABET accredited programs also often offer computer science and engineering programs and they do not offer a BBA IS degree.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ABET ACCREDITED IT PROGRAMS

In Table 4 below, it can be seen that IT programs have several differences from IS programs. IT programs offer BS degrees and do not offer BBA degrees. IT programs are often offered in joint departments of IT or computer science departments and are located in colleges that are technically oriented and these colleges are not usually business oriented.

TABLE 4
ABET ACCREDITED IT PROGRAMS IN 2013

#	University	ABET Accred Year	Department	IT Title	Degree	College
1	Brigham Young U	2004	IT	IT	BS	School of Tech
2	Capella U	2009	Bus & Tech	IT	BS IT	School of UG Studies
3	Drexel	2007	IT	IT	BS IT	Col of Com & Info
4	East Tennessee	2005	Computing	IT	BS	Col of Bus & Tech
5	Georgia Mason	2008	Applied IT	IT	BS	School of Eng
6	Georgia Southern	2003	IT	IT	BS	Col of EIT
7	Indiana U-Purdue	2008	Comp, Info Sc	IT	BS	School of Science
8	Middle Georgia	2007	IT	IT	BS	School of IT
9	Oakland	2010	CS & Engin	IT	BS	School of Engin & CS
10	Purdue W Lafayette	2005	Com & IT	IT	BS	College of Tech
11	Purdue Calumet	2010	Com IT Graph	CIT	BS	College of Tech
12	Rochester IOT	2003	IS & Tech	IST	BS	Coll of Comp & IS
13	Slippery Rock	2009	CS	IT	BS	Coll of Bus, IS & SS
14	SE Louisiana	2011	CS & IT	IT	BS IT	Coll of Science & Tech
15	Southern Poly	2007	IT	IT	BSIT	Sch of Comp & Soft Eng
16	U of Toledo	2010	Joint Depts	IT	BSIT	Col of Engin, Col of Bus
17	US Military Acad	2007	EE & CS	IT	BS	None
18	US Naval Acad	2005	CS	IT	BS	Math & Science
19	U Cincinnati	2006	School of IT	IT	BSIT	Col of Ed, CJ & HR
20	U Missouri-KC	2006	CS & EE	IT	BIT	Sch of Comp & Eng
21	U New Hampshire	2011	CS	IT	BSIT	CEPS
22	U North Florida	2007	Sch of Comp	IT	BS	Col Eng, Comp, Const
23	U South Alabama	2003	Sch of Comp	ITE	BS	None
24	Walden	2013	IT	IT	BS	School of IS & Tech
25	Winston-Salem	2011	CS	IT	BS	Col of Arts & Sciences

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ABET ACCREDITED IS PROGRAMS

In Table 5 below, the title of the IS courses in ABET accredited programs could be IS or CIS or MIS or ISM or BIS. There is no standard name for IS courses in an ABET accredited program. In Table 5 it can also be seen that most ABET accredited IS programs are BS degrees but there are 2 BBA degrees offered so it is possible for a BBA program to get ABET accredited.

In universities with an ABET accredited IS program, they generally do not also offer IT or engineering programs. However, all universities offering an ABET accredited IS program also offer a computer science program. It might be noted that most computer science programs are ABET accredited.

TABLE 5
ABET ACCREDITED IS PROGRAMS IN 2013

#	University	Year ABET Accred		IS Title	ABET IS Deg	Exis Of IT	Exis Of CS	Exis Of Engin	Exis Of BBA IS	Bus AACSB Accred
1	Arkansas Tech	2006		IS	BS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
2	California SU, Chico	2008		MIS	*BS*	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*
3	California U of Penn	2008		CIS	BS	N	Y	Y	N	N
4	Drexel U	2001		IS	BS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	East Tennessee SU	2010		IS	BS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
6	Fitchburg State College	2006		CIS	BS	N	Y	N	N	N
7	Florida Memorial U	2008		CIS	BS	N	Y	N	N	N
8	Gannon	2004		MIS	BS	N	Y	Y	N	N
9	Grand Valley SU	2007		IS	BA	N	Y	Y	BA	Y
10	Illinois State U	2001		MIS	BiS	N	Y	N	BIS	Y
11	Jacksonville SU	2003		CIS	BS	N	Y	N	Mgmt	Y
12	James Madison	2003		CIS	*BS*	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*
13	Kennesaw State U	2002		IS	BS	Y	Y	N	N	Y
14	Metropolitan S College	2005		MIS	*BS*	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*N*	*N*
15	NJ Institute of Tech	2002		IS	BS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
16	Pace U	2000		IS	BS	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
17	Quinnipiac U	2005		ISM	*BS*	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*N*	*Y*
18	Radford U	2008		IS	BS	N	Y	N	N	Y
19	Regis U	2010		CIS	BS	N	Y	N	N	N
20	Robert Morris U	2001		ISM	BS	N	SE	Y	N	N
21	Rowan U	2006		MIS	BS	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*N*	*Y*
22	Slippery Rock	2003		IS	BS	Y	Y	N	N	N
23	Southern Utah U	2009		IS	BS	N	Y	Y	N	Y
24	SUNY Brockport	2011		CIS	BS	*N*	*Y*	*N*	*Y*	*Y*
25	U of Tampa	2009		MIS	BS	*N*	*N*	*N*	*N*	*Y*
26	U Arkansas, Little Rock	2006		IS	BS	N	Y	N	N	Y
27	U Houston, C of Tech	2009		CIS	BS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
28	U Houston-Clear Lake	2004		CIS	BS	N	Y	Y	BS	Y
29	U Nebraska, Omaha	2002		MIS	BS	PhD	Y	PhD	N	Y
30	U North Alabama	2006		CIS	*BBA*	*N*	*Y*	*N*	*N*	*Y*
31	U North Florida	2001		IS	BS	N	Y	Y	N	Y
32	U of South Alabama	2001		IS	BS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
33	U South Carolina	2004		BIS	BS	N	Y	Y	N	Y
34	Utah S U	2005		CS	BS	N	Y	Y	BA	Y
35	Utah Valley U	2007		IS	BS	Y	Y	N	N	Y
36	Virginia Commonwealth	2001		IS	BS	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*	*N*	*Y*
37	West Texas A&M U	2011		CIS	BBA	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*	*Y*
38	Wright SU	2004		MIS	BS	*N*	*Y*	*Y*	*N*	*Y*

In Table 5 above, most universities offering an ABET accredited IS program do not offer a BBA IS degree, however, in many of these universities their business programs are AACSB accredited.

CONCLUSIONS

At one time many IS and IT faculty assumed that ABET accreditation would become the standard IS and IT accreditation, as it is for computer science and engineering. If you look at Table 1 and 2 it can be seen that the growth rate of ABET accredited IS and IT programs has slowed down to a virtual halt. In 2012 and 2013 there were no new IS programs ABET accredited and in 2012 and 2013 there was only one new IT program AABET accredited. It can be concluded that ABET accreditation has not yet become the standard accreditation for IS programs and this does not appear likely to happen in the near future.

35 of the 38 IS programs that are accredited by ABET are BS degrees. This shows a possible differentiation from the BBA Degrees that are usually accredited by business accreditations and not ABET.

Most of these BS degrees are located in non-business colleges that are more technically oriented. Again this shows a possible differentiation from BBA Degrees that are usually accredited by business accreditations and not ABET.

There has been a slow but a steady growth of ABET accreditation of IS programs (38 programs in 10 years). While it has been slow and steady, there is by no means a trend showing this as the go to or standard accreditation for IS degrees.

After 10 years, only 25 IT programs are ABET accredited. Once seen as the latest trend, the creation of IT degrees has not supplanted the technical BS IS degrees housed out of college of businesses.

ABET accredited IT programs are not located in a College of Business. Once again the data seems to display that IT and BS IS degrees seem to be the alternatives to BBA IS degrees but are not seen as replacing them, rather they appear to be a different degree altogether.

Of the 25 ABET accredited IT programs, 8 are located in IT departments, 7 are located in CS departments, and 10 are located in joint depts. IT departments can be located in many different IT & CS departments.

The bottom line is that the growth of ABET accredited IS programs has slowed down and it appears that ABET accreditation of IS programs has not yet become the standard IS accreditation like engineering & CS and there is no indication that this will happen in the near future.

Our data appears to demonstrate that if an IS program is not in a School/College of Business, they should consider ABET accreditation.

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