

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

ACCREDITATION BOARD

ACCREDITATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROGRAMS (CURRICULUM BASED)

IN THE OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY OF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATE

Original Draft Release - December 2009
Print Edition 1, Revision 0 - February 2011

The current version of all component documents comprising this Accreditation Management System are available on the Engineers Australia Website

www.engineersaustralia.org.au

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE DEFINING DOCUMENTATION:

This documented Accreditation Management System (AMS) developed by Engineers Australia sets out policy, criteria and guidelines for the accreditation of engineering education programs in the occupational category of Engineering Associate.

The AMS is presented in a modular, controlled document format to provide for ease of navigation and access to pertinent information. Formal procedures for review approval and version control are in accordance with established quality management practices.

This AMS defining document is intended as a resource for engineering education providers in the processes of planning, educational design, program review and continuous quality improvement. It also is intended to provide explicit guidance for the development of submission documentation in preparation for an accreditation visit. The AMS provides the definitive criteria, assessment and reporting framework for evaluation panels engaged in the

accreditation process and for the Engineers Australia Accreditation Board in the process of decision making.

AN OUTCOMES BASED APPROACH:

The Engineers Australia AMS is built on outcomes based approach to educational design. The accreditation policy provides a generic framework with required attributes for graduates of an accredited program in any specific field of engineering practice.

The accreditation process considers inputs, process and content as well as sampling outcomes. The accreditation criteria presented in this document set provide a platform for judging the potential of an individual program to deliver graduates satisfying the Engineers Australia Stage 1 Generic Competency Standard for Engineering Associate.

THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

In this set of defining documentation, the accreditation criteria provide a consistent framework to steer the preparation process and the work of evaluation panels.

The accreditation criteria are first introduced in dot-point form. Performance indicators are subsequently developed to provide an interpretation of expectation under each criterion. A judgement on accreditation will be made in a holistic sense however and educational providers are not expected to respond in a prescriptive fashion to every individual performance indicator.

Detailed guidance against each criterion is provided in a specific guidelines document in order to establish a clear demarcation between the absolute requirements for accreditation and the preferred and/or expected modes of operation.

Requirements and guidelines for development of submission documentation also explicitly follow the accreditation criteria.

It is hoped that this AMS will encourage a systematic and rigorous self review process as a key resource to the quality improvement cycle within educational institutions.

DOCUMENT EVOLUTION


The AMS for Engineering Associate programs has been developed from an equivalent set of system documents first published in 2004 for the accreditation of programs at the level of Professional Engineer. The criteria for accreditation assessment has been modelled on that originally set out in the 'Manual for the Accreditation of *Professional Engineering Programs*' first published by Engineering Australia in 1999.

The development of the accreditation criteria and guidelines specifically for Engineering Associate curriculum based programs was undertaken during 2008-2009 by adapting the AMS for the Engineering Technologist and with reference to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) for an AQF level 6 program.

The key changes from the Professional Engineer and Engineering Technologist accreditation criteria and guidelines are particularly evident in the component documents S01EA_Curr, S02EAE_Curr and G02EA_Curr contained within. The accreditation criteria are fully compliant with the competencies targeted for a graduate Engineering Associate as specified in the Stage 1 Generic Competency Standards published by Engineers Australia.

The Engineers Australia AMS has been formally endorsed by the Accreditation Board of Engineers Australia as the defining documentation set for the accreditation of curriculum based programs at the level of Engineering Associate. Revision 0 of each of the component documents was approved for release by the Accreditation Board. Subsequent revisions will be formally approved by the Accreditation Board.

Signed:



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Professor R King
Chair
Engineers Australia
Accreditation Board

Date: 27 January, 2011