

ACM/IEEE GUIDELINES AND CSAB ACCREDITATION FOR SMALL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES: WHAT ARE THEY AND ARE THEY USEFUL?

PANEL DISCUSSION

Discussants:

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In 1991, ACM/IEEE developed a new set of curriculum guidelines for undergraduate degrees in computer science and computer engineering. The guidelines followed a new format. Instead of listing courses with their contents, knowledge units are listed (and subdivided), and the individual universities and colleges are allowed to develop courses in a format that they desire as long as the knowledge units are covered. The guidelines do include some sample curriculums at the end. In addition, there is the CSAB (Computing Sciences Accreditation Board) which offers accreditation for computer science programs.

The goal of this panel is to take the guidelines and see how they apply to small colleges and universities. We also want to discuss the possible value of CSAB accreditation for such small schools. The ACM/IEEE guidelines deal primarily with knowledge units. There is a lot of information associated with the knowledge units. A brief overview of the knowledge units will be presented along with an analysis of their appropriateness for a small school.

The interrelationship between the ACM/IEEE guidelines and CSAB accreditation will be discussed along with an overview of the requirements for accreditation. This includes the supporting requirements such as the number of faculty, the amount of support service, and the facilities available. These requirements can be harder for a small school (esp. a nonresearch one) to obtain. Can these requirements be obtained in small schools? It is worth it?

The panel wishes to discuss the process to achieve accreditation along with its advantages and disadvantages. Hopefully, some tips for other schools will be given.