

## Panel Discussion: Preparing for Undergraduate Information Technology Program Accreditation

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### Panel Description

This panel will inform the audience about an undergraduate IT program's preparation and process for ABET accreditation. The School of Information Technology at Macon State College is seeking accreditation from the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET accredits academic programs that prepare graduates for entry into the following professional disciplines: 1) applied science, 2) computing, 3) engineering, and 4) technology. (<http://www.abet.org>).

Specifically, the panel will discuss three themes essential in preparing the IT program for ABET accreditation. They are: 1) program educational objectives, 2) program outcome, and 3) program continuous improvement.

**Keywords.** Accreditation, ABET, IT curriculum, educational objectives, program outcome, continuous improvement

#### ***Program Educational Objectives***

The panel will discuss how the undergraduate IT program at MSC – School of IT has been documenting “*measurable program educational objectives that are based on the needs of the program’s constituencies*” as required by ABET.

#### ***Program Outcome***

The panel will discuss how the undergraduate IT program at MSC – School of IT has been documenting “*measurable outcomes that are based on the needs of the program’s constituencies*” as required by ABET.

#### ***Program Continuous Improvement***

The panel will discuss how the IT program at MSC – School of Information Technology “*uses a documented process incorporating relevant data to regularly assess its program educational objectives and program outcomes, and to evaluate the extent to which they are being met*” as required by ABET.

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In addition, the panel will discuss “*how the results of the evaluations are documented and used to effect continuous improvement of the program through a documented plan*” as required by ABET.

Audience participation will be encouraged during the presentation.

**Keywords:** Accreditation, ABET, IT curriculum, educational objectives, program outcome, continuous improvement

## Panelists

**Alex Koohang** is professor of Information Technology and Dean of the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. Dr. Koohang has been involved in the development of online education, having initiated and administered some of the earliest asynchronous learning networks. His current research interests are in the areas of e-learning, learning objects, open education, open access, open source, and knowledge management.

**Liz Riley** is associate professor of Information Technology in the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. She teaches in the areas of programming and application development. Her current research interests are in the areas of e-learning and curriculum design.

**Richard Spiers** is associate professor of Information Technology in the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. He teaches senior capstone and systems design. His current research interests are in the areas of systems design and curriculum design.

**Kevin Floyd** is assistant professor of Information Technology in the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. He teaches in the areas of programming & application development, information security, and IT integration. His current research interests are in the areas of open source, accessibility, and information security.

**Julie Santiago** is assistant professor of Information Technology in the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. She teaches in the areas of programming & application development, information security, and IT integration. Her current research interests are in the areas of accessibility and IT integration.

**Alicia David** is assistant professor of Information Technology in the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. She teaches in various areas of digital media. Her current research interests are in the areas of digital media, e-learning, and curriculum design.

**Peyton Gloré** is assistant professor of Information Technology in the School of Information Technology at Macon State College. He teaches in various areas of digital media. His current research interests are in the areas of digital media, e-learning, and curriculum design.