

1- Update on accreditation activities

The AB Meeting of June was the first time that accreditation decisions took into consideration Graduate Attribute and Continual Improvement compliance. Compliance with input criteria (e.g.: curriculum content) remained a requirement. Programs performed well, as usual. No program lost accreditation. The majority received the maximum accreditation of 6 years. Workshop in September 2015 to discuss lessons learned, future improvements to the process and to train future visit team chairs.

2- Update on DLC – P&P Meeting (Sept. 18) and AB Meeting (Sept 20-21)

CEAB's Policies and Procedures committee discussed with the NCDEAS/DLC a proposal for curriculum-input criteria modification. While addressing the NCDEAS/DLC desire for a reduction of the AU-quantified curriculum content to 1545AU, the proposal clearly spells out that total learning effort in accredited curricula must continue to be equivalent to 8 semesters of full-time-equivalent study. This proposal does not involve a reduction or dilution of the total learning effort. It was positively received by NCDEAS/DLC. The discussions of September 18 were undertaken with the caveat that the members of the Accreditation Board would have to be consulted on any proposals discussed.


When the outcomes of discussions were presented to the Accreditation Board on September 30th, members did not have prior notice of the proposal. They did raise some concerns both on the process and on the content. They requested time to review the latest proposal. They also pointed out the lack of consultation with regulators.

3- Follow-up on Accreditation criteria

3.1 The Washington Accord*

2.6 Best Practice in Application of Graduate Attributes

The attributes of Accord programmes are defined as a *knowledge profile*, an indicated volume of learning and the attributes against which graduates must be able to perform. The requirements are stated without reference to the design of programmes that would achieve the requirements. Providers therefore have freedom to design programmes with different detailed structure, learning pathways and modes of delivery. Evaluation of individual programmes is the concern of national accreditation systems.

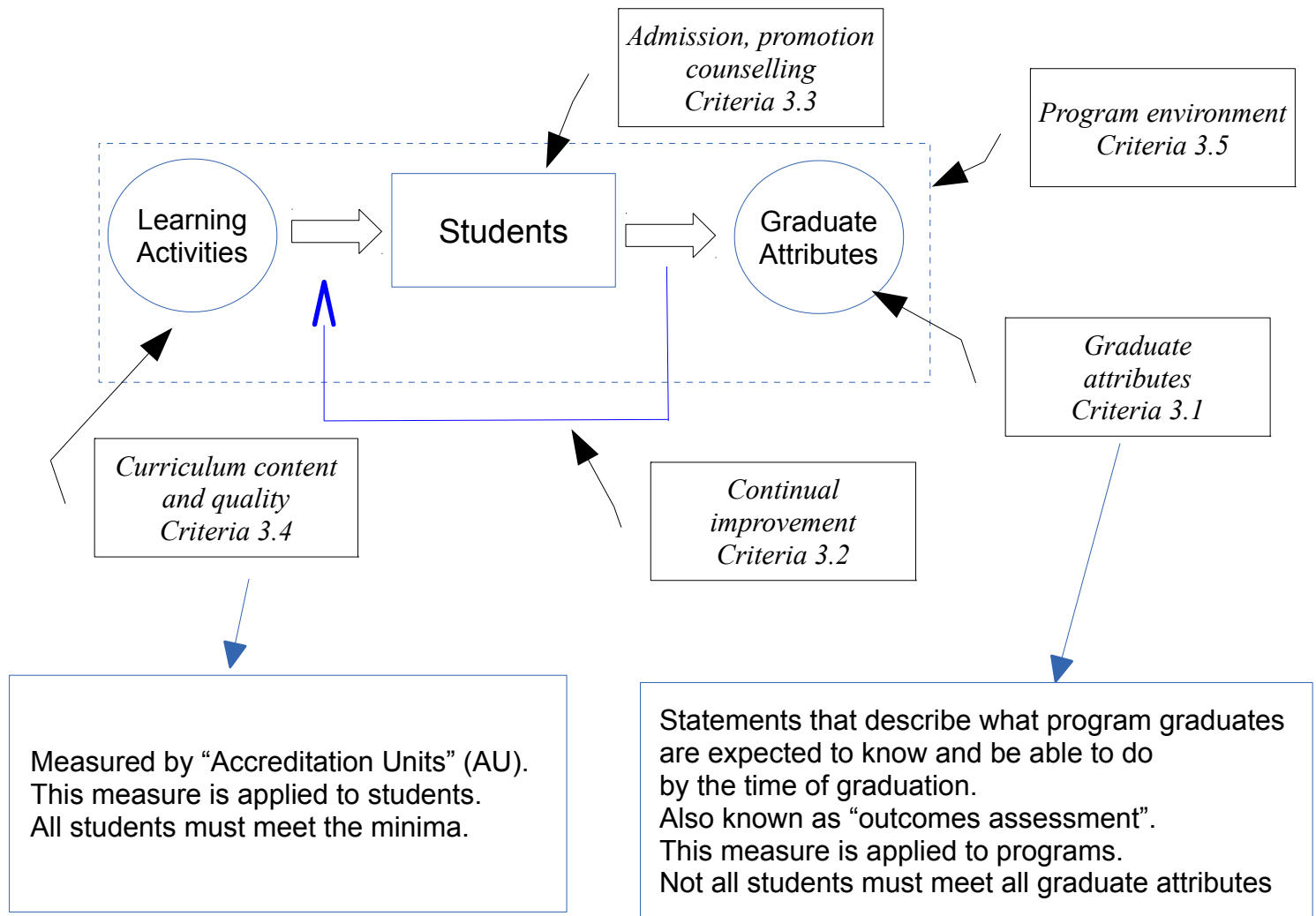
	the practice areas in the engineering discipline
	WK7: Comprehension of the role of engineering in society and identified issues in engineering practice in the discipline: ethics and the professional responsibility of an engineer to public safety; the impacts of engineering activity: economic, social, cultural, environmental and sustainability
	WK8: Engagement with selected knowledge in the research literature of the discipline
	A programme that builds this type of knowledge and develops the attributes listed below is typically achieved in 4 to 5 years of study, depending on the level of students at entry.

“...countries...that have national qualifications frameworks have minimum credit requirements (linked to notional hours of learning) for the degree so that a student not meeting the credit requirements would not graduate...”

Hu Hanrahan Chair, Washington Accord

* International Engineering Alliance Graduate Attributes and Professional Competency Profiles, Page 4 of 16
<http://www.ieagreements.org/>

3.2 The Canadian accreditation system



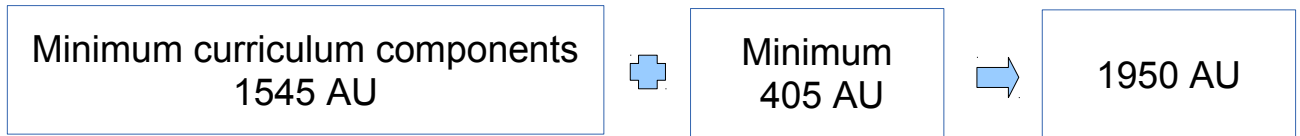
3.4.1.1 **Accreditation units (AU)** are defined on an hourly basis for an activity which is granted academic credit and for which the associated number of hours corresponds to the actual contact time between the student and the faculty members, or designated alternates, responsible for delivering the program:

- one hour of lecture (corresponding to 50 minutes of activity) = 1 AU
- one hour of laboratory or scheduled tutorial = 0.5 AU

The AB has always clearly insisted that, even with the advent of graduate attributes/outcomes assessment, it will be essential, at least for many years, to continue with assessment of curriculum inputs.

3.3 Proposal for curriculum-input criteria modification

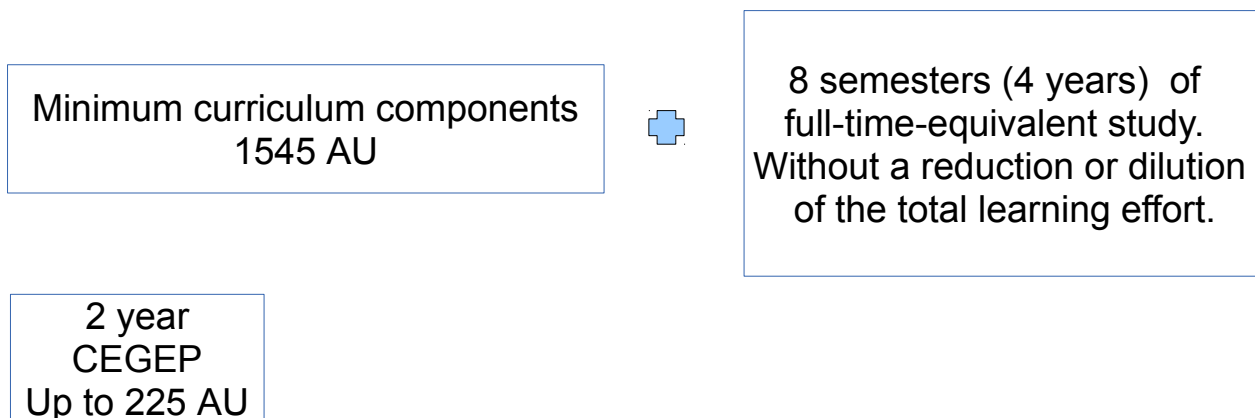
NCDEAS is asking AB to reduce the AU-quantified curriculum content to 1545 AU.



3.4.2 Minimum curriculum components:

An engineering program must include the minimum for the entire curriculum and for each of its components.

- The entire program must include a minimum of **1,950 AU**
- Mathematics: Minimum 195 AU
- Natural sciences: Minimum 195 AU
- Mathematics and natural sciences combined: Minimum 420 AU
- Engineering science: Minimum 225 AU
- Engineering design: Minimum 225 AU
- Engineering science and engineering design combined: Minimum 900 AU
- Complementary Studies: Minimum 225 AU
- Laboratory experience and safety procedures instruction



4- The way forward

a) We propose that CEAB itself undertake a formal process (ideally through a formal Task Force with formal terms of reference and with a suitable membership (beyond AB members), that consults with the deans, the CA's and others regarding prospective criteria changes, leading to a report to the CEAB (and others) by February 2016.

b) We propose that CEAB explore ways to reduce the workload for both institutions preparing an accreditation dossier and visiting teams. For example by using learning outcomes for assessing learning activities, curriculum content and graduate attributes.

c) We propose that CEAB devise a communication plan showing Deans and Programs Chair that current criteria allow for flexibility, innovation and students exchanges. (NCDEAS meeting Nov. 12-14).

3.4.1.3 One method for determining an equivalent measure in AU is a calculation on a proportionality basis. This method relies on the use of a unit of academic credit defined by the institution to measure curriculum content. Specifically, a factor, K, is defined

3.4.1.4 The Accreditation Board can give consideration to departures from this approach and these methodologies in any case in which it receives convincing documentation that well-considered innovation in engineering education is in progress.

d) We are concern about a new role that EC Board appears to be adopting, either by requiring "negotiation" / "mediation", or by seeking to change the criteria itself without knowledge or rationale, or by instituting a consultation process that the AB does not lead and is a minor participant.

e) We express our concerns over the undermining of the CEAB's regulatory role that may occurred.

Proposed time line

Oct. - Nov. : Task Force (AB members + others) consultations on criteria changes

Early Dec. : AB meeting by teleconference. Task Force interim report

Nov. NCDEAS Meeting – AB update on accreditation activities

Dec. P&P – DLC Meeting : Review of proposed changes

Feb. : AB Meeting, adoption of final report

Spring : AB Report to be presented to EC Board