Kathryn Atherton

ABE 29000

Homework 9

Bralts – ABET

In class on Thursday, I learned about the Accreditation for Engineering and Technology through the Accreditation Board. Dr. Bralts taught us the purpose of the exam and what benefits we can get by taking it.

We learned that W. Edwards Deming began the Continuous Quality Improvement movement, which is the basis of engineering. This and Outcomes Based Assessment are the key points that ABET focuses on in accreditation of engineers and engineering programs. Outcomes Based Assessment means that the productivity of teams is determined based on their outcomes Investments in improving the cooperativity of the team are weighted based on how much it will improve the outcome.

ABET Accreditation evaluates engineers as well as engineering education programs in their continuous quality improvement. It is an external assessment of how well the individual and the institutions which teach the individuals understand and implement continuous quality improvement. Various organizations weigh in on what an individual in a certain concentration of engineering need understand and what the institution need have in order to be accredited. These organizations are typically the national organization of that concentration of engineering. For example, the main organization that makes the objectives of accreditation for biological engineers is ASABE: the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

Every 3-6 years, an institution is reviewed to renew their accreditation. If they pass with flying colors, their accreditation is renewed for six years. If they just barely pass, their accreditation is renewed for another three years. If they don’t pass, their accreditation is not renewed. Accreditation of an institution is determined by working with students in the program as well as looking at some of the best and worst work of the students in an engineering program.

As an engineering student, I am looking to become accredited so as to ensure that my professional reputation begins on the right foot. I am very happy to be at Purdue, where ABET has almost always renewed their accreditation for six years. I hope to work hard to help this program ensure that it will be accredited for another six years.