Assessing Program Outcomes in Computer Science using Value Rubrics

Linda L. Day   Daniel Spiegel
Department of Computer Science and Information Technology

ABSTRACT

The Computer Science Department is working toward ABET accreditation. As a result of this work the department has developed performance criteria and associated documents for assessing the outcomes for the two tracks in the degree. Those outcomes align with the ABET criteria for accrediting programs in 2014-2015. Tangential to the process of working on the assessment of these outcomes, the department developed a system to assess all courses. A mock visit by accreditors in February 2014 led to the determination that the department should alter its method of assessing program outcomes and develop rubrics based on the assessment of learning outcomes VALUE rubrics developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Development of standard and complete rubrics will help to improve student learning and the program’s chances for accreditation. The assessment process would begin in fall 2014, with the outcomes rotated over a multi-year cycle.