

Computer Science Accreditation Council (CSAC) Policies

1. The Computer Science Accreditation Council (CSAC) assesses undergraduate programs for accreditation. The institution is responsible for identifying the program(s) which is/are to be assessed. A program is normally identified as such within the Calendar of the institution, and should be characterized by a curriculum that is regarded and promoted as an entity by the institution, and which may be considered independently. A program may contain options and/or electives, and it is the responsibility of the institution to identify all such options and electives within a program to be assessed. In assessing a program for accreditation, CSAC will examine all such options and electives within the program, and will accredit a program only if all such options and electives meet the criteria.
2. To invite institutions to submit programs for accreditation by the Council.
3. CSAC accredits a program only if students have graduated from that program. However, an accreditation visit for a new program may be undertaken during the final academic year of the first graduating class of that program. Accreditation of such a new program is granted only if and when students graduate from the program in the year in which the accreditation visit takes place. The effective date of such accreditation will include the first graduating class. Should the program fail to produce graduates in the academic year of the visit, accreditation will be denied.
4. CSAC will give primary consideration to programs as taken by students who will be graduating within two academic semesters (10 courses) following the accreditation visit. However, if the requirements of a program have been officially changed for students who will be graduating at a later date, then CSAC will also assess whether the new requirements meet the accreditation requirements. CSAC is only able to evaluate the content of courses which have been actually taught.
5. To favour broad programs that will prepare students to take advantage of as many different opportunities as possible, to contribute to the needs of Canadian society both in the near and long term, and to embark on life-long learning.
6. To deny accreditation to programs that omit instruction in a significant portion of a subject in which computer professionals may reasonably be expected to have competence. This policy is intended as a safeguard to the public and should not entail the setting of rigid standards.
7. To avoid rigid standards as a basis for accreditation in order to prevent standardization and conservatism, and to encourage planned experimentation.

8. To assess qualitative as well as quantitative factors in making an accreditation decision. This should be implemented by a visit to the institution by a competent committee, having suitable qualifications.

9. CSAC accredits satisfactory programs for a full term. If the CSAC judges, that there are areas of concern, accreditation may be granted for a three year term. The areas of concern and method by which the CSAC will assess if all concerns have been addressed will be explicitly stated. The assessment methods will include either the review of a report submitted by the institution or a visit by an accreditation team. It is expected that the institution will take action to bring the program into full compliance with the criteria.

10. To revoke accreditation if institutions do not continue to comply with established criteria. If it appears that an accredited program is not in compliance with the criteria, then the institution is so notified. If the response from the institution is not adequate, then the Council will institute procedures to determine the actual status of the program in question prior to making any decision with respect to the revocation of accreditation.

11. To provide means for reconsideration.

12. To publish a list of accredited programs only. Information such as to whether a program not on the accredited list had been under consideration by the Council will not be made available except to the appropriate officials of the institution offering the program.

13. An institution may not simultaneously use the same program title to identify both an accredited program and a non-accredited program.

14. CSAC will consider the review and accreditation of privately funded university programs if the program has satisfied the following conditions:

a) Received provincial government recognition involving institutional recognition/accreditation and a program specific review recognition/accreditation and continues to meeting the province's guidelines for continuing the recognition.

b) Is a baccalaureate degree program.

Note: All programs requesting accreditation will be reviewed by CSAC existing accreditation criteria. No changes or exception will be made to these criteria to accommodate special needs or requirements that exist in privately funded educational institutions.