



COMPUTING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

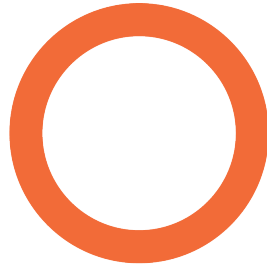
Summary of Accreditation Actions

2018–2019 Accreditation Cycle

California State University, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA, United States

Computer Science (B.S.)

Accredit to September 30, 2025. A request to ABET by January 31, 2024 will be required to initiate a reaccreditation evaluation visit. In preparation for the visit, a Self-Study Report must be submitted to ABET by July 1, 2024. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.



ABET

COMPUTING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
LOS ANGELES**

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES

FINAL STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION
2018-19 ACCREDITATION CYCLE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, CA, United States

ABET COMPUTING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

FINAL STATEMENT

VISIT DATES: OCTOBER 7-9, 2018

ACCREDITATION CYCLE CRITERIA: 2018-2019

INTRODUCTION & DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT CONSTRUCT

The Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of ABET has evaluated the Computer Science (B.S.) program at California State University, Los Angeles during the 2018 19 cycle for possible accreditation under the CAC/ABET "Criteria for Accrediting Computing Programs Version 1.0" dated October 20, 2017.

The statement that follows consists of two parts: the first addresses the institution and its overall educational unit, and the second addresses the individual programs.

A program's accreditation action will be based upon the findings summarized in this statement. Actions will depend on the program's range of compliance or non-compliance with the criteria. This range can be construed from the following terminology:

- **Deficiency** A deficiency indicates that a criterion, policy, or procedure is not satisfied. Therefore, the program is not in compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure.
- **Weakness** A weakness indicates that a program lacks the strength of compliance with a criterion, policy, or procedure to ensure that the quality of the program will not be compromised. Therefore, remedial action is required to strengthen compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure prior to the next review.
- **Concern** A concern indicates that a program currently satisfies a criterion, policy, or procedure; however, the potential exists for the situation to change such that the criterion, policy, or procedure may not be satisfied.
- **Observation** An observation is a comment or suggestion that does not relate directly to the current accreditation action but is offered to assist the institution in its continuing efforts to improve its programs.

REVIEW TEAM

The program listed above was evaluated by the peer review team shown below.

- **Program Evaluator** Charles H. Dana, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
- **Visit Team Chair** Stewart Crawford, Hawai'i Pacific University

- **Editor 1** Mohammed Samaka, College of the North Atlantic-Qatar
- **Editor 2** Donna Reese, Mississippi State University

Please note that program accreditation decisions are made solely by the respective Commissions of ABET. Reference to the professional affiliations of the volunteer peer evaluators in no way constitutes or implies endorsement or recommendation of the programs by the listed professional affiliations.

INFORMATION RECEIVED AFTER THE REVIEW

- **Seven-Day Response** No information was received in the seven-day response period.
- **30-Day Due-Process Response** Information was received in the 30-day due process response period relative to the Computer Science program.

INSTITUTIONAL SUMMARY

California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) is one of 23 campuses in the California State University System. CSULA serves the predominantly Mexican-American community of East Los Angeles and the predominantly Asian-American community of the San Gabriel Valley. Because of the ethnic diversity of its students, CSULA was the first university in California with an engineering program to become a federally-designated Title III Minority Institution and the first institution in California to qualify as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). CSULA is a comprehensive state university comprised of eight colleges. The College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology (ECST) offers three engineering programs and a computer science program, all of which were evaluated during this visit. The college has 3353 students, 53 full-time faculty members, and 94 faculty who are either adjunct or in the faculty early retirement program. The college had 395 graduates in the 2017-18 academic year. Faculty members are active in the scholarship of both teaching and research.

Computer Science

B.S. Program

Evaluated under CAC Program Criteria for
Computer Science and Similarly Named Computing Programs

INTRODUCTION

Within the College of Engineering, the Computer Science department has eleven full time faculty and more than ten regular part time faculty, with three of those tenure track faculty hired in the last four years. The undergraduate enrollment, by headcount, has been rising in recent years, from 526 in Fall 2014 to currently 831 in Fall 2018. CS degrees awarded rose from 27 (2014-15), to 41 (2015-16), to 58 (2016-17), jumping to 93 this past academic year (2017-18).

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

1. In the Computer Science program, all 20 plus senior design projects each year are sponsored by external industry or government entities. The students thus get real-world experience in their senior design projects, and a final Expo Conference provides a conference-like experience for students in presenting their projects. Not only is this a notable benefit to students, arranging and mentoring these projects demonstrates the commitment of the faculty to the program by maintaining these external connections.
2. The CSNS [CS Network Services] software which the department has developed provides an efficient "one-stop shop" for student management and continuous improvement of the program. It serves as a learning management system, a place for advisers to track student progress and formation of teams, a repository for course documentation, and more. As an integrated system it dramatically improves the workflow of the department.

PROGRAM CONCERN

Criterion 6. Faculty

Criterion 6 states, "The faculty serving in the program must be of sufficient number to maintain continuity, stability, oversight, student interaction, and advising." The students appear to be well-served by the current faculty. However, with the 60% increase over the past five years in CS enrollments, without a concomitant increase in faculty in the near future, there is a concern that faculty numbers may not be sufficient to maintain the continuity, stability, oversight, student interaction, and advising in the program.

30-Day Due-Process Response

Due-Process Response: In their 30-day response, the Dean notes a 5-year history of opening faculty lines, searching, and hiring to meet their current needs, with full-time faculty increasing 50% over those past five years. The current hiring plan has three additional hires planned over the next

three years. Additionally, the LA area also provides a deep talent pool for lecturers / adjuncts. Advising has been structured to use professional advisors in a student's first two years, with faculty involved only in their Junior and Senior years thus lessening the faculty advising load.

Due- Process Evaluation: The leadership of the college has argued, both retrospectively and prospectively, that they have a clear focus on this issue. Also, past hiring has shown that they have been successful in advocating for their priorities to the university at large. Three additional faculty lines over the next three (realistically four, maybe five) years will hold them well in keeping up with anticipated growth. While past performance is no guarantee of future results, the college appears to be on track to keeping faculty needs aligned with student enrollment, and this concern is largely resolved.

Status

The program concern has been resolved.

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Los Angeles, CA, United States

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FINAL STATEMENT

VISIT DATES: OCTOBER 7-9, 2018

ACCREDITATION CYCLE CRITERIA: 2018-2019

SUMMARY

The following is a summary of this evaluation for California State University, Los Angeles, during the 2018-19 cycle.

Computer Science:

No deficiencies, weaknesses, or concerns were found.