

415 North Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201 +1.410.347.7700 www.abet.org

August 23, 2018

Freeman A. Hrabowski President University of Maryland Baltimore County 1000 Hilltop Circle Baltimore, MD 21250

Dear Dr. Hrabowski:

I am pleased to transmit to you the findings of the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET with respect to the evaluation conducted for University of Maryland Baltimore County during 2017-2018. Each of ABET's Commissions is fully authorized to take the actions described in the accompanying letter under the policies of the ABET Board of Directors.

We are pleased that your institution has elected to participate in this accreditation process. This process, which is conducted by approximately 2,000 ABET volunteers from the professional community, is designed to advance and assure the quality of professional education. We look forward to our continuing shared efforts toward this common goal.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Lightner

President

Enclosure: Commission letter and attachments



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August 23, 2018

Keith J Bowman Dean UMBC 1000 Hilltop Circle Baltimore, MD 21250

Dear Dr. Bowman:

The Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET recently held its 2018 Summer Meeting to act on the program evaluations conducted during 2017-2018. Each evaluation was summarized in a report to the Commission and was considered by the full Commission before a vote was taken on the accreditation action. The results of the evaluation for University of Maryland Baltimore County are included in the enclosed Summary of Accreditation Actions. The Final Statement to your institution that discusses the findings on which each action was based is also enclosed.

The policy of ABET is to grant accreditation for a limited number of years, not to exceed six, in all cases. The period of accreditation is not an indication of program quality. Any restriction of the period of accreditation is based upon conditions indicating that compliance with the applicable accreditation criteria must be strengthened. Continuation of accreditation beyond the time specified requires a reevaluation of the program at the request of the institution as noted in the accreditation action. ABET policy prohibits public disclosure of the period for which a program is accredited. For further guidance concerning the public release of accreditation information, please refer to Section II.A. of the 2017-2018 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

A list of accredited programs is published annually by ABET. Information about ABET accredited programs at your institution will be listed in the forthcoming ABET Accreditation Yearbook and on the ABET web site (www.abet.org).

It is the obligation of the officer responsible for ABET accredited programs at your institution to notify ABET of any significant changes in program title, personnel, curriculum, or other factors which could affect the accreditation status of a program during the period of accreditation stated in Section II.H. of the 2017-2018 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

ABET requires that each accredited program publicly state the program's educational objectives and student outcomes as well as publicly post annual student enrollment and graduation data as stated in Section II.A.6. of the Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

ABET will examine all newly accredited programs' websites within the next two weeks to ensure compliance.

Please note that appeals are allowed only in the case of Not to Accredit actions. Also, such appeals may be based only on the conditions stated in Section II.L. of the 2017-2018 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

Sincerely,

Ann L. Kenimer, Chair

Engineering Accreditation Commission

Enclosure: Summary of Accreditation Action

Final Statement

cc: Freeman A. Hrabowski, President

Charles LaBerge, Professor of the Practice, Computer Science & Electrical Engineering Sonia Maassel Jacobsen, Team Chair



Engineering Accreditation Commission

Summary of Accreditation Actions for the 2017-2018 Accreditation Cycle

University of Maryland Baltimore County Baltimore, MD

Chemical Engineering (BS)

Computer Engineering (BS)

Mechanical Engineering (BS)

Accredit to September 30, 2024. A request to ABET by January 31, 2023 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 01, 2023. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.



Engineering Accreditation Commission

Final Statement of Accreditation to

University of Maryland Baltimore County Baltimore, MD

2017-2018 Accreditation Cycle

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ABET ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY Baltimore, MD

FINAL STATEMENT Visit Dates: October 15-17, 2017 Accreditation Cycle Criteria: 2017-2018

Introduction & Discussion of Statement Construct

The Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET has evaluated the chemical, computer, and mechanical engineering programs of the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

This statement is the final summary of the EAC evaluation, at the institutional and engineering-program levels. The statement consists of two parts: the first addresses the institution and its overall engineering educational unit, and the second addresses the individual engineering programs. It is constructed in a format that allows the reader to discern both the original visit findings and subsequent progress made during due process.

A program's accreditation action is based upon the findings summarized in this statement. Actions 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.

Information Received After the Visit

- 1. <u>Seven-day response</u>: Information was received in the seven-day response period relative to the mechanical engineering program.
- 2. <u>30-day due-process response</u>: Information was received in the 30-day due-process response period relative to the mechanical engineering program. No 30-day due-process response was received relative to the chemical and computer engineering programs.
- 3. <u>Post 30-day due-process information</u>: Information was received after the 30-day due-process response period relative to the mechanical engineering program.

Institutional Summary

The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) is a public, state-supported research university with an undergraduate enrollment of 11,264 students in 59 majors supported by three colleges. The College of Engineering and Information Technology (COEIT) offers six baccalaureate level programs. The college has 4,241 undergraduate students and 104 full-time faculty members, 88 of whom are tenured or tenure track. Enrollment across the three engineering programs evaluated on this visit was 1,523. Approximately 34 percent of COEIT students transfer in from local community colleges or from other members of the University of Maryland system. The three engineering programs had 202 graduates in 2017.

The following units were reviewed and found to adequately support the engineering programs: mathematics, physics, library, chemistry, computer science, career services, registrar, faculty development center, information technology, advising, assessment, and admissions.

Institutional Strength

1. The importance of student success is a strong university-wide goal. The commitment to helping students be the best was reflected on many levels from the program, to the dean's office, to

FINAL STATEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY

various administrative functions. Efforts of the Faculty Development Center aid faculty through many programs and personal guidance, with the ultimate goal of student success.

Chemical Engineering BS Program

Program Criteria for Chemical, Biochemical, Biomolecular and Similarly Named Engineering Programs

Introduction

The chemical engineering BS program is administered by the Department of Chemical, Biochemical, and Environmental Engineering. The program offers a traditional track and two specialized tracks: the biotechnology and bioengineering track, and the environmental engineering and sustainability track. The traditional track and the environmental engineering and sustainability track require a total of 129 credit hours; the biotechnology and bioengineering track requires 133 credit hours. Thirteen tenured or tenure-track, one adjunct (part-time), and three non-tenure-track faculty members support the program and its 338 students. Fifty-eight students graduated from the program in the 2016-17 academic year.

Program Strength

1. Students are enthusiastic participants in their education, noting personal advising by faculty as being particularly influential on their career and professional licensure efforts. This enthusiasm carries forward after graduation producing supportive alumni who promote the university and to the employers of the program's graduates.