

Washington Accord Programs  
Excerpts from a memo from NCEES dated March 18, 2009

According to the Washington Accord website, “the signatories have exchanged information on, and have examined, their respective policies and procedures for granting accreditation of engineering academic programs, and have concluded that these are comparable.” ([www.washingtonaccord.org](http://www.washingtonaccord.org))

For Washington Accord programs, ABET does not conduct site visits to determine if these programs’ degrees are substantially equivalent to an EAC/ABET degree. This is important to licensure because an EAC/ABET degree is a threshold determination for most Member Boards to allow a candidate to pursue licensure in that jurisdiction.

The NCEES Center for Professional Engineering Education Services recently conducted a study and determined that degrees awarded to many graduates of Washington Accord programs are not substantially equivalent to a degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program. Many of these programs were found to be deficient in humanities, math or basic science.

As a result, the NCEES Board of Directors took the following action: *Applicants for the Council Records program with foreign degrees that are not EAC/ABET or CEAB accredited and who have not had an evaluation of their education performed prior to March 1, 2009, will be required to have an evaluation conducted by the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services (Center) in order to obtain a Council Record.*

This action was implemented March 1, 2009.