Response to the 2024-25 ABET Draft Statement of Accreditation for the Electrical Engineering Program at Weber State University

January 2025

Program Weakness

The one program weakness stated in the ABET Draft Statement of Accreditation is reiterated below for reference.

> <u>*Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual*</u>
>
> *The Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (APPM) Section I.E.5.b.(1) states that the review team will examine the facilities to assure that instructional and learning environments are adequate and safe for the intended purposes. Throughout the facility tour, the team observed little to no evidence of posted safety signage in many laboratories. Furthermore, there was inconsistent availability and accessibility of personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety items. Unless instructional and learning environments are safe for their intended purposes, the safety of both students and staff members is at risk. Thus, the program lacks strength of compliance with the requirement implicit in APPM.*

Response

Subsequent to the ABET visit September 17, 2024. Signage was deployed for all laboratories managed by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. Signs have been placed on each laboratory door clearly describing the qualifications required to use the laboratory and a QR code that can be used to register the student for proper training in safety and the use of equipment. Some examples of this signage are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Laboratory door signs on labs NB-112, NB 102 and NB 136.

Additionally, since the fire extinguishers are located external to the laboratories, Signs have been placed near laboratory doors to direct people in the laboratory to the nearest fire extinguisher. (See Figure 2.)

Figure 2. Example signage (room NB 112 and NB-120) directing users to the nearest fire extinguisher.

The location of all PPE (personal protective equipment) is now clearly marked and is readily available to laboratory users. Examples are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Examples of PPE signage in NB-126A and NB-118.

Also, since the ABET visit, first aid kits have been deployed prominently in each laboratory. The signage on the kits themselves direct users of the laboratory to medical materials in case of an emergency. A photograph of the first aid kit in NB-112 is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. First Aid Kit (NB-112)

It should be noted that prior to the ABET visit, some signage had already been deployed in areas where specific dangers exist (e.g. the optics laboratory or the project fabrication room). This signage remains. (Examples are shown in Figure 5.)

Figure 5. Signage for specific hazards in rooms NB-118 (x 2) and NB 126A.

1.2 Program Concern

The one program concern stated in the ABET Draft Statement of Accreditation is reiterated below for reference.

> *<u>Criterion 8. Institutional Support</u>*
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> *This criterion requires that resources including institutional services, financial support, and staff (both administrative and technical) provided to the program be adequate to meet program needs. The program uses multiple laboratories, well- equipped with new equipment, to deliver its curriculum. However, there are no dedicated technical staff members responsible for maintaining and administering the laboratories, but, rather these duties are the responsibility of faculty members. While this criterion is currently satisfied, as the equipment ages, there is the potential that faculty members may not be equipped and available to provide adequate maintenance of the laboratories and the equipment. Thus, future compliance with this criterion may be jeopardized.*

Response

A lab manager (Jack Fernald) has been hired to oversee safety, training and maintenance of the laboratory equipment used by the Electrical and Computer Engineering programs. He will start August 2025.