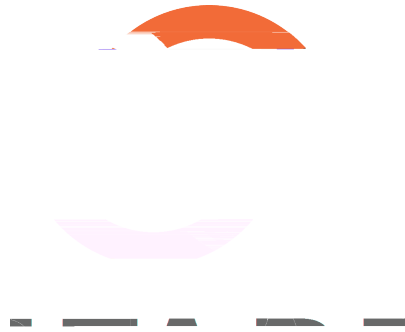COMPUTING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

# Summary of Accreditation Actions
2019–2020 Accreditation Cycle

Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ, United States

Computer Science (BS)

Accredit to September 30, 2026. A request to ABET by January 31, 2025 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, 2025. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.

# COMPUTING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

# NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
## FLAGSTAFF, AZ, UNITED STATES

## FINAL STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION
### 2019-20 ACCREDITATION CYCLE

# NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
Flagstaff, AZ, United States

ABET COMPUTING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

## FINAL STATEMENT
VISIT DATES: SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2019
ACCREDITATION CYCLE CRITERIA: 2019-2020

## INTRODUCTION & DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT CONSTRUCT

The Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of ABET has evaluated the computer science program at Northern Arizona University during the 2019-20 cycle for possible accreditation under the CAC/ABET "Criteria for Accrediting Computing Programs" dated November 2, 2018.

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 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:

- Def ciency  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

to in

# Computer Science
## BS Program

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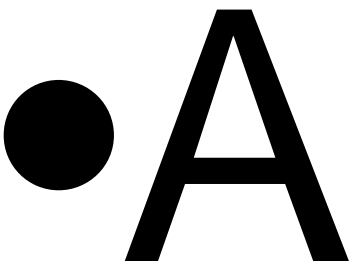Computer Science and Similarly Named Computing Programs

## INTRODUCTION

The BS in Computer Science program is offered at the Flagstaff campus through the School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems in the College of Engineering, Informatics, and Applied Sciences. The school also offers bachelor's programs in Applied Computer Science, Informatics, Computer Engineering, and Electrical Engineering. Three programs — Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Informatics — are offered at the master's level, and an interdisciplinary program in Informatics and Computing is offered at the doctoral level. The total number of undergraduates enrolled in the school is 985, and the enrollment in the BS in Computer Science program is 509. Supporting the program are 16 full-time and one part-time faculty members Based on the reviews of the website, transcripts and university catalog, the program is clearly identified and differentiated from other programs offered at the university. The status of the two currently accredited programs within the School — Computer Science and Electrical Engineering — are clearly differentiated from each other and from the School's non-accredited programs.

## PROGRAM WEAKNESS

Criterion 8. Institutional Support

This criterion states that the resources, including institutional services, provided to the program must be adequate to meet program needs. Academic advising for all undergraduates is centralized through the University Advising office. Six professional academic advisors, plus a senior program coordinator, are assigned to serve the programs within the College. The visit team found that the quality of the advising being provided was inadequate and advisors sometimes lacked sufficient knowledge of the curriculum. Furthermore, although the Institution advertises on its University Advising web page that each individual student is assigned a professional advisor, the team found that assigned advisors were frequently changed, thus impacting the quality of advising being provided. Interviews with the senior program coordinator and administrators within the college confirmed that there

previously received salary increases awarded to all university personnel in July 2019. Starting salaries for academic advisors were also increased by 7%. Within the academic advising team dedicated to the College, an Advising Coordinator position was established and an advisor was promoted into a senior-level position; both of these positions are designed to provide additional leadership and mentoring to junior advisors. Finally, communications between the advising team and the program are being strengthened by including the Advising Coordinator as a non-voting member for various curriculum committee meetings within the College.

Status

The program weakness is unresolved. The aforementioned changes are likely to provide both a greater financial inducement to counteract staff turnover and increase the advising team's level and currency of curricular knowledge. However, these changes have not been fully implemented and their impact in addressing the identified academic advising issues have not been demonstrated yet.

# Post-30-Day Due-Process Response

The program submitted documentation of (1) advisor retention data

# NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
Flagstaff, AZ, United States

ABET COMPUTING ACCREDITATION

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