Geology Degree Program Accreditation Update
SME has accepted responsibilities for accreditation of geology and similarly named B.S. degree programs by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission (ANSAC) of ABET. ABET is the organization for which SME has responsibilities via ABET’s Engineering Accreditation Commission for accreditation of geological engineering, geophysical engineering, mining engineering, and similarly named degree programs including mineral processing engineering. During the latter months 2017 an ad hoc subcommittee (Will Wilkinson, Jon Price, and C. Dale Elifrits, Chairman) appointed by the Accreditation and Curricular Issues Subcommittee of SME’s Council on Education promulgated draft program criteria for the accreditation of geology degree programs at the B.S. level. These draft geology degree program criteria were approved by the SME Board of Directors and forwarded to ABET a year ago. These proposed criteria were accepted by the Criteria Committee of ANSAC, the ANSAC Commission, the ANSAC Board of Delegates, and have now been posted on the ABET Internet site for comments from interested professionals and the public. These draft geology degree program criteria amplify the ANSAC General Criteria which all ABET accredited applied and natural science B.S degree programs must meet to be ABET accredited; see this Internet site to read ANSAC General Criteria: https://www.abet.org/accreditation/accreditation-criteria/criteria-for-accrediting-applied-and-natural-science-programs-2019-2020/.

Below are the proposed B.S. geology degree program criteria which are currently open for comment. Comments and/or suggestions for changes may be offered using the Internet site given below at the end of the proposed geology program criteria. Input should be provided before the end of May, 2019. During its July meeting, ANSAC will take up comments. Consideration will be given to final approval of these criteria for use in accreditation of B.S. geology degree programs in the United States and world-wide by ANSAC of ABET.

PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR GEOLOGY AND SIMILARLY NAMED APPLIED AND NATURAL GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS
Lead Society: Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME/AIME)
These program criteria apply to geology or similarly named applied and natural science programs.

I. PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR BACCALAUREATE LEVEL PROGRAMS
Curriculum
The curriculum must provide graduates with the necessary knowledge of geology and include the following curricular areas:
a. general and field geology, including geographic information system (GIS) applications, and applicable safety practices in laboratory and field work
b. mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry
c. sedimentology, stratigraphy, and paleontology
d. geomorphology, surficial processes, and Quaternary geology
e. structural geology, tectonics, and geophysics
f. hydrogeology
g. engineering geology
h. economic and resources geology

Comments relative to the proposed criteria may be submitted the ANSAC Criteria Committee using this: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S3FLVV8, or on the Accreditation Changes section of the ABET Applied and Natural Science Commission at: https://www.abet.org/accreditation/accreditation-criteria/criteria-for-accrediting-applied-and-natural-science-programs-2019-2020/.

For further information, contact C. Dale Elifrits at (859) 441-9997 or elifritsc@nkue.edu or David Hammond at (303) 791-7361 or mineraileconomics.drh@gmail.com.