

ASET News

Technology Accreditation Canada launches full operations



Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC), a new, world-class accreditation model for the engineering technology and applied science profession, has officially opened its doors and launched full operations following the successful completion of its pilot project with a Canadian college.

The product of three years of development and testing to achieve rigorous and consistent national accreditation, TAC is now ready to assist all educational institutions in accrediting their programs as it receives enquiries and applications for accreditations from Canadian educational institutions.

TAC takes the accreditation process to the next level through objective documentation, competency definition/measurement and quality assessment, and ensures auditor competency through specialized training, testing and monitoring. Accreditation decisions are based on the program meeting clearly defined criteria and not on the subjective approval of a board of directors. Second-level process and annual reviews by TAC's governance and audit council guarantee consistency and integrity in TAC's national accreditation process.

"What this means is unprecedented quality assurance in the accreditation process for our educational institutions. Graduates from TAC-accredited programs are ready to start exciting, fulfilling careers in a diverse range of Canadian technology fields," said Sam DiGiandomenico, TAC executive director.

TAC accreditation gives colleges the confidence that their programs meet diligent third-party requirements and directly embody the standards of the profession. Students will know that the program chosen reflects excellence in education, and offers an opportunity for professional status after graduation. Employers will be satisfied that graduates are ready to contribute and bring real value to their businesses. Provincial professional associations (PPAs) will recognize that graduates from TAC nationally accredited programs have the necessary academic preparation to join the profession and that no further technical education is needed for certification.

TAC is the brainchild of Technology Professionals Canada (TPC), a partnership of provincial technology associations in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, which realized that a review was long overdue for the decades-old accreditation system in Canada. Representing approximately 85 per cent of the technology profession in Canada, TPC approached the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to undertake a comprehensive third-party evaluation. The establishment of TAC is the direct result of that effort.

A national organization with offices in Toronto, TAC recently concluded work on its pilot accreditation project with Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario. Georgian College's electrical engineering technology program was the focus of the pilot and received the inaugural accreditation. TAC grants accreditation for five years only after which time a new accreditation must take place.

Incorporated in 2013, TAC accredits engineering technology and applied science programs at post-secondary educational institutions. Its goal is to be a leader in the delivery of improved, efficient and effective national accreditation, using trained, specialized auditors, maintaining an uncompromising degree of quality control and assurance, and rigorously applying national technology standards.

For more information about TAC, please visit: www.technologyaccreditation.ca.