

Accreditation Issues

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offering

B.S. programs in geology, meteorology, ocean sciences and coastal studies, and BSE in Earth Sciences

Accreditation Concerns

- Limits the ability to evolve organically and meet regional needs
- Strong departments with small enrollments could be marginalized – fewer choices weakens geosciences community
- In departments with other non-accredited degree programs an imbalance is created with a disproportionate amount of time and resources given to one program at the expense of others

Accreditation Concerns

- Diminishes opportunities for inter-disciplinary studies at the intersection of disciplines (e.g. Earth systems; hydrology; weathering systems science; planetary science, etc)
- Important consequences on the equity of the distribution of faculty complement, load, and departmental resources
- No substantive gain: nothing positive coming from chemistry (ACS) and Computer Science (ABET)

...and more than anything

Accreditation suffocates vision, stifles creativity

- Programs are externally driven
- Five year reviews are strictly geared toward accreditation; not allowing for thinking outside the box or tailoring programs
- 🎵 ...and we all go to the university, and we're all put in boxes and we all look just the same



In its place: Guidelines

- Something similar to the AMS guidelines for a B.S. in Atmospheric Science/Meteorology