

Program Evaluators (PEVs)

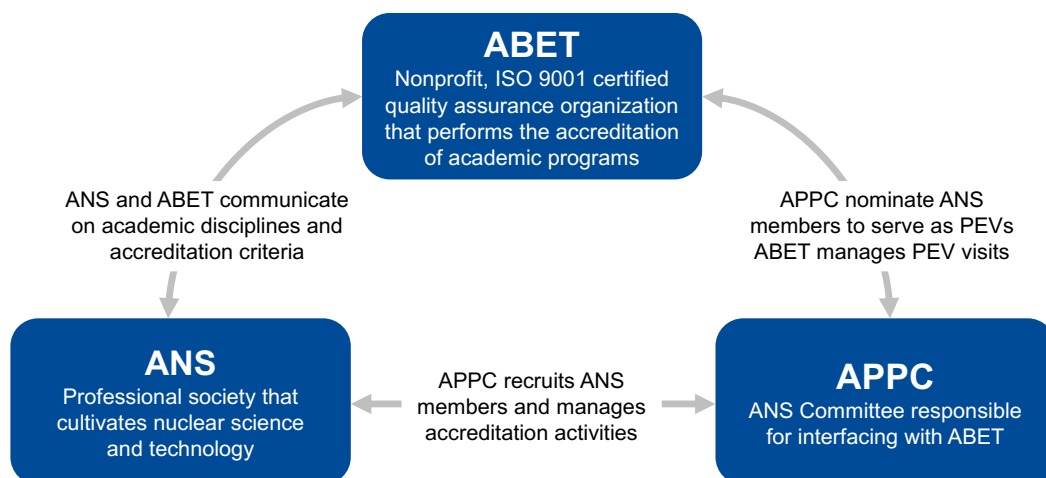
The Accreditation Policies and Procedures Committee (APPC) of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) seeks, trains, and assigns program evaluators (PEVs) to perform assessment of nuclear engineering, radiological engineering, and health physics programs on ABET visits. This is an opportunity for ANS members to ensure that nuclear education is at its highest standard and fulfills the needs of its stakeholders.

What is a PEV?

ABET PEVs are volunteers who evaluate post-secondary programs that offer degrees in engineering. The PEVs are nominated through ANS and then subsequently evaluate programs that offer degrees in nuclear and radiological engineering. The evaluation is performed according to a set of ABET criteria that include requirements for the program, students, faculty, facilities, curriculum, and continuous improvement and specific nuclear and radiological engineering requirements.

The PEV ensures that the academic program being evaluated meets the ABET criteria. As part of the evaluation process, PEVs can actively assist institutions in improving the quality of their academic programs.

The PEV nomination to ABET is made through the APPC. The following block diagram shows the relation between the different parties:



Why become a PEV?

It is rewarding for those with strong interests in undergraduate engineering education, especially related to nuclear and radiological engineering and health physics. Here is what some of our current PEVs had to say about their role:

“Being a PEV is an opportunity for engineers/scientists who have experience in the nuclear field and interest in nuclear engineering education to support educational institutions in a very constructive and tangible way. Professionally, I have grown in the process of training and serving as a PEV. I have made professional connections and affiliations that otherwise would not have happened.”

—**Mary Lou Dunzik-Gougar**

Associate Professor, Idaho State University

“As a graduate student, I developed an interest in undergraduate engineering; I participated on an Undergraduate Curriculum Advisor Committee. I signed up for the PEV training class as a way to “give back” to the engineering education process. After completing my first review, I realized just how important the accreditation process was to ensure an appropriate nuclear engineering program exists for students and how this would ultimately benefit future employers of these students. The benefit/reward for this commitment is doing the visit itself – interacting with faculty and students and identifying what needs to be done to improve the program (through identifying concerns, weakness [and deficiencies]). The visit is its own reward (especially for industry PEVs.”

—**Stanley H. Levinson**

Technical Consultant, Framatome Inc. (retired)

“As a faculty member responsible for an ABET-Accredited Nuclear Engineering Program, becoming a PEV has been an exceptional way to make my program stronger. Through interactions with the members of APPC and going on various visits to other institutions, I have been able to see and meet with the very best programs in the world, and I have incorporated many aspects of those programs into what we do at our institution. Meeting with faculty, administrators, and students across the country has helped improve our curriculum, meet requirements for accreditation, and create graduates who are better prepared to meet the needs of our constituency.”

—**Kenneth S. Allen**

Professor, United States Military Academy



ANS PEV Qualifications/Requirements

To become a PEV, you must:

- Be an active ANS member
- Be a graduate of an ABET-accredited program
- Possess the ABET PEV competencies
- Have a strong interest in academic accreditation activities
- Have acquired at least five years of experience in the nuclear field through academia, industry, national labs, and/or government organizations

Steps to becoming a PEV

The following steps are required to become a PEV:

1. The candidate completes an online application through ABET.
 - Select ANS as the member engineering society during the application.
2. The application is forwarded to and reviewed by the ANS APPC.
 - If approved, the APPC makes the nomination to ABET.
3. The candidate completes a set of online training modules
 - Time commitment: approximately 20 hours.
4. The candidate completes a face-to-face or virtual training.
 - Time commitment: 1½ days and travel time if applicable.
 - ANS will cover travel and living expenses.
5. If requested, the candidate performs an observer visit.
 - Time commitment: same as the PEV in an accreditation visit below.
 - An observer visit is recommended (in most cases, ANS will cover travel and living expenses).

PEV Time Commitment

• Pre-Visit Work

This work involves thoroughly reviewing the Self Study Report provided by the engineering program, performing a transcript and curriculum analysis, initiating contact/correspondence with the engineering program, and starting a draft visit report. This takes approximately 30-40 hours of pre-visit work.

• Institutional Site Visit

The visit usually occurs from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon. A team meeting usually occurs on Sunday morning. The time commitment for an accreditation visit is three to four days depending on the time needed to travel to the institution.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and create an effective role to ensure that nuclear education is at its highest standards and fulfills the needs of its stakeholders. If you have questions, please contact ANS Staff Liaison: **Ms. Janet Davis**.