Conflict of Interest & Ethics Exercises
ABET Program Evaluator Training

Exercise 1

ABET is attempting to identify a team to conduct an accreditation visit to Lancaster University. Four Program Evaluators are needed. How would you respond to the following situations:

a) A prospective evaluator discloses that she was a classmate (at another institution) of one of LU’s program faculty. Does this present a conflict of interest?

b) The prospective evaluator’s company has hired a number of faculty from this university as consultants. Does this present a conflict of interest?

c) A prospective evaluator serves on a prominent national committee for his professional society. One of the faculty members at Lancaster University is also on that committee. Does this present a conflict of interest?

Exercise 2

Conestoga Institute of Technology is scheduled for an accreditation visit. They have rejected three potential team members.

a) A visitation team member who they found acceptable is completing his doctorate at a neighboring university. One of his doctoral committee members is now teaching at the CIT. No other evaluators in this discipline are available. Does this present a conflict of interest? What do you recommend?

b) When you arrive on campus the university provides each team member with a knit shirt, coffee mug and fountain pen bearing the school logo. They consider these items gestures of common courtesy provided to all guests. How should you handle this situation?