



James A. Oppold Fund  
ABET Accreditation Grants

### **Why Students Should Care About ABET Accreditation**

Earning a degree is a significant achievement and an important investment in your future. Since so much of your future success depends on your educational foundation, the quality of the education you receive makes a big difference. ABET accreditation is often required for eligibility for federal student loans, grants, and scholarships (certainly for more than \$200k in ASSE scholarships). Many forms of OSH professional licensure, registration, and certification, such as the CSP, also require graduation from ABET accredited programs as a minimum qualification. In addition, many employers, including the federal government, require graduation from ABET accredited programs to be eligible for employment in certain fields.

### **Grant Information**

The goal of the program is to encourage and facilitate universities in obtaining ABET accreditation of their safety and health programs by providing near matching funds in order to continue to advance the OSH profession.

Only one degree program per institution shall be eligible and the institution must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education (i.e. CHEA & DETC)
- Offer a bachelors, masters, or associate degree in an academic safety and health program administered and taught by qualified faculty whose competence is also evidenced by participation in professional societies and applicable certification issued by nationally accredited credentialing bodies
- Seeking accreditation or reaccreditation in either a bachelors, masters, or associate degree program in occupational safety & health

### **Site Visit Verification/Granting of Funds**

The central criterion for obtaining this grant is based upon verification of the site visit being confirmed. Confirmation shall be provided to the ASSE Foundation Manager by the ASSE program evaluator on the site visit team or ASSE representative/alternate on the ABET Applied Sciences Accreditation Commission. A copy of the invoice and confirmation of the site visit dates should be provided to the Foundation Manager prior to the check being issued. The check will be sent to the office of the president/provost of the university with a cover letter signed by the ASSE Foundation Chair.

In the event the site visit is cancelled, the officers of the university or college shall agree to return the monies provided by the ASSE Foundation. The letter accompanying the check shall inform the institutions' officers of this caveat and their obligation to comply with it.



Grants will not exceed \$3,500 of the total accreditation process fee for initial accreditation and \$1,750 or less for reaccreditation. The number of grants awarded in one year, are contingent upon funds available. If funds are limited, the award of the grant will be based on the earliest post- marked date as well as other criteria including but not limited to:

- Whether an active ASSE student section exists with a viable annual program
- The student section has a faculty advisor
- A local ASSE chapter is affiliated with the student section

**Proposals Due:**

- Grant requests should be postmarked no later than September 15
- One to two page funding request to Mary Goranson, ASSE Foundation, Attn: Accreditation, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 or [assefoundation@asse.org](mailto:assefoundation@asse.org)
- The Foundation Board will review all applications by December 31