Impact of the Washington Accord on Mobility of Engineers through Standards

Accreditation Session: Global Engineering Deans Conference: Chicago 2013

Hu Hanrahan

Chairman, Washington Accord

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE

The Washington Accord

- The Washington Accord (WA) is an agreement among signatory accrediting agencies that:
  - having verified that criteria, policies and procedures for accrediting engineering academic programs are comparable,
  - accreditation decisions made by one signatory are acceptable to the others

  for academic programs providing the educational foundation for the practice of engineering at the professional level

- The Washington Accord is one of six agreements constituting the International Engineering Alliance (IEA)

  See: www.ieagreements.org

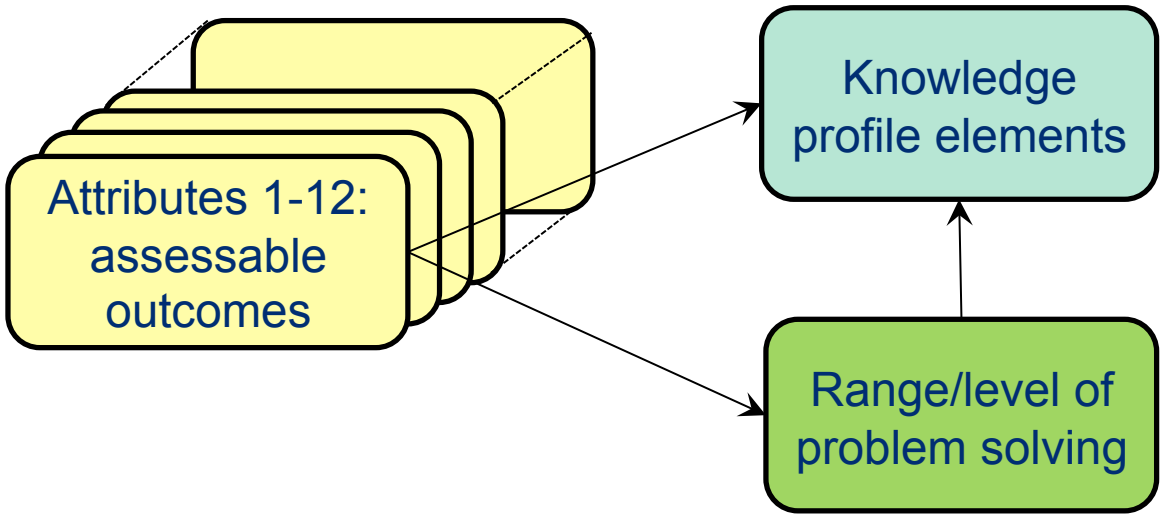
INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE

Development of the Washington Accord

Mobility of Graduates

- Mobility of graduates flows from:
  - the definition and achievement of substantially equivalent standards by the signatories,
  - Verification of the signatory's accreditation in the WA review processes
- The Washington Accord exemplar standard is part of the IEA Graduate Attributes
- The WA Graduate Attributes are related to the IEA Professional Competencies defined for Professional Engineers or equivalent.

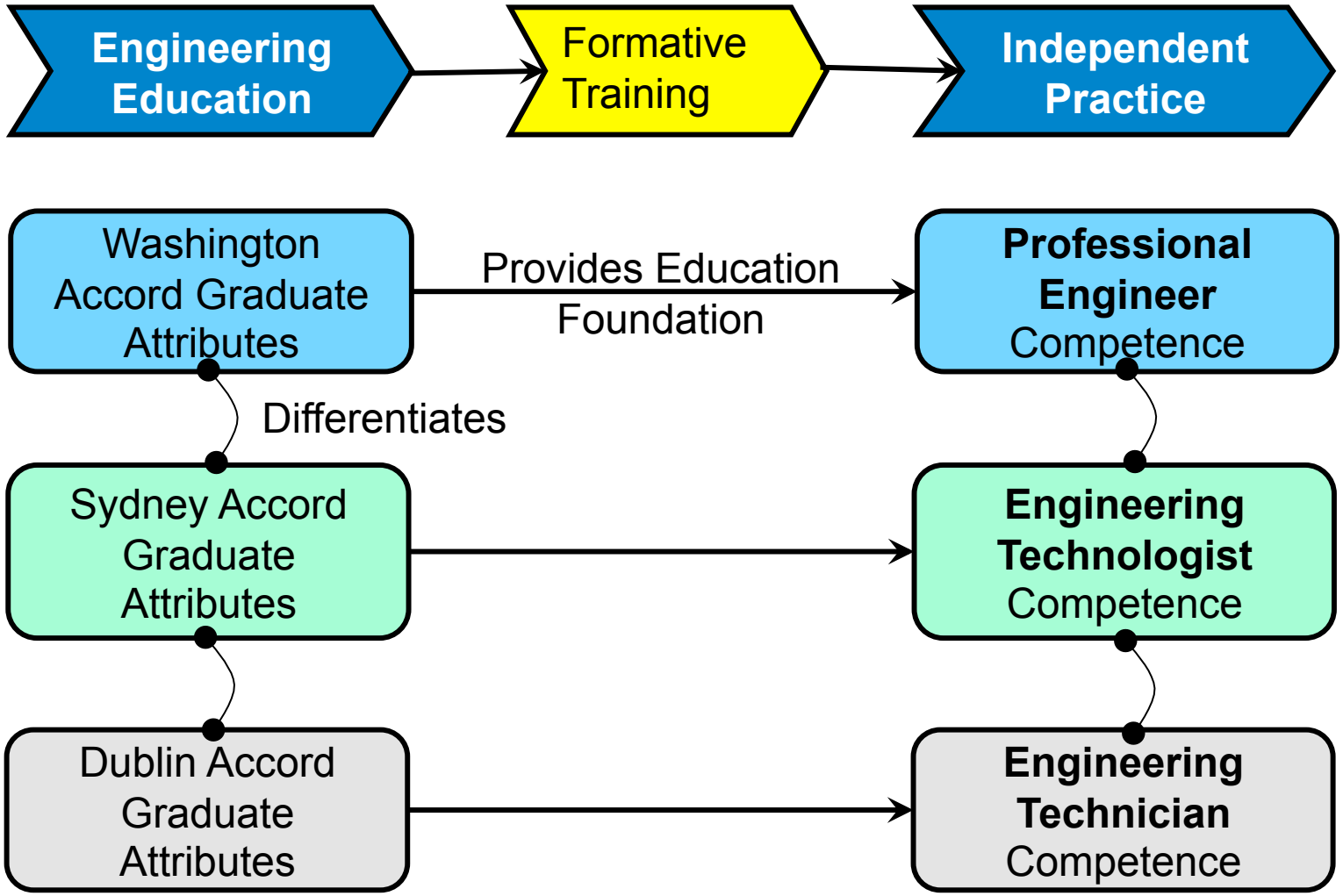
Structure of the Graduate Attributes



The Graduate Attributes are defined as twelve outcome statements supported by:

- A knowledge profile
- A range/level classifier for engineering problems

The IEA Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies



INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE

Available at: www.ieagreements.org

What are the Graduate Attributes?

WA	Graduate Attribute Focus
1	Use engineering and underpinning knowledge
2	Identify, formulate and analyse problems
3	Synthesis and design solution to problems
4	Investigate and use research methods
5	Use engineering methods, tools and techniques
6	Communicate effectively

WA	Graduate Attribute Focus
7	Assess societal, health, safety, legal and cultural issues and engineering responsibilities
8	Evaluate the sustainability and impact of professional engineering work
9	Apply ethical principles and commit to professional ethics
10	Function effectively as an individual, in a team and in multi-disciplinary settings
11	Understand principles of engineering management and economic decision-making
12	Engage in independent and life-long learning

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE

Global Engineering Competence

- Global engineering graduate competence has two components:
  1. Universally applicable and necessary attributes for all graduates
  2. The graduate's ability to contextualize key attributes in transnational or new local contexts.
- The first are defined in the Graduate Attributes

Conclusion

- The WA graduates are reasonably successful when seeking recognition in other signatory jurisdiction

For now

- Further enhancement of graduate readiness for transnational migration is a program design and delivery issue

- The IEA has transnational education issues under consideration