

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Fontbonne University's Computer Science Program Earns ABET Accreditation**

*Fontbonne University's computer science program among only eight of its kind in Missouri to be internationally recognized with ABET accreditation*

**ST. LOUIS** – Fontbonne University's bachelor's degree program in computer science has been accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

ABET accreditation assures that a collegiate program has met standards essential to produce graduates who are ready to enter the critical STEM fields. Graduates from an ABET-accredited program have a solid education foundation and are capable of leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies, and anticipating the needs of the public.

"The ABET accreditation in computer science is exciting for us because it puts Fontbonne on the map," said Mary Abkemeier, Chair of Fontbonne's Mathematics and Computer Science Department. "It shows that as a small, private institution, we provide a high-quality computer science program."

Sought worldwide, ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

Developed by technical professionals from ABET's member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn. ABET accreditation reviews look at program curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support, and are conducted by teams of highly skilled professionals from industry, academia, and government, with expertise in the ABET disciplines.

"Our program is unique because of its rigor not only in the classroom, but outside the classroom," Abkemeier said. "We provide heavy doses of practical experience through internship opportunities and many hands-on classroom experiences."

As of July 1, 2018, Fontbonne is among only eight universities in Missouri to have its computer science program ABET accredited; it is the only Catholic university in Missouri with this accreditation; it is the only private university in St. Louis; and is one of two private universities in Missouri with this accreditation for computer science.

For more information about Fontbonne's bachelor's degree program in computer science, visit [www.fontbonne.edu/cs](http://www.fontbonne.edu/cs).

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#### **About Fontbonne University**

Fontbonne University is a private, Catholic, liberal arts university located in St. Louis committed to a transformative education and inspiring students to become global citizens who think critically, act ethically and serve responsibly. The university, founded in 1923, is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. For more information, visit [www.fontbonne.edu](http://www.fontbonne.edu).

#### **About ABET**

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It currently accredits over 3,800 programs at over 750 colleges and universities in 31 countries. More information about ABET, its member societies, and the accreditation criteria used to evaluate programs can be found at [www.abet.org](http://www.abet.org).