

FAQ - ACS Core Body of Knowledge for ICT Professionals (CBOK)

Why has the ACS introduced the new CBOK?

Drivers of the CBoK review included rapidly changing technology jobs and the dominance of Small to Medium Enterprises in Australia that result in a great diversity of functions performed by traditional ICT occupations.

With innovation and creativity fundamental to future economic prosperity, the updated CBoK provides a world first by explicitly including entrepreneurship and innovation amongst graduate attributes.

The updated CBoK is designed to better meet the needs of students in a rapidly evolving digital education space, and will help drive the innovative thinking that will help secure Australia's economic and educational future.

This has been achieved by establishing a base set of competencies and standards which must be held, and then defining specific sets of skills for each branch of digital and technological education.

What is the purpose of the ACS Core Body of Knowledge for ICT Professionals (CBOK)?

The CBOK is used by ACS for the accreditation of undergraduate degree and postgraduate degree programs (where applicable) for initial professional practice (Professional level accreditation), and for assessing capability through ACS professional certifications (CT and CP).

It ensures that all ICT professionals who satisfy the CBOK requirements have essential core ICT knowledge (ICT Problem Solving and ICT Professional Knowledge), as well as a conceptual understanding of ICT as a broad discipline (Technology Resources, Technology Building, and ICT Management).

When will the updated CBOK be required in accreditation submissions?

All new accreditation submissions from March 2016 will be based on the updated CBOK. Any existing accreditation submissions or submissions with substantial amounts of preparation will be based on the previous CBOK.



Will institutions have to immediately comply with new Innovation and Entrepreneurship requirements for ICT graduate attributes?

No - there will be a gradual implementation of the new attributes. For institutions that currently do not address innovation and entrepreneurship, there will be a recommendation to apply a gradual implementation, with a requirement as mandatory by the next accreditation.

How is specialisation now determined with the absence of SKILLS block in the new CBOK?

Each program for Professional level accreditation must address at least one ICT skill at SFIA level 3 or above in a specific area related to the intended career role.

Specialisation is now explicitly linked to the ICT skills for the intended career role.

(See also Accreditation Guidelines: Document 2 Appendix 8: APPENDIX 8: Assessment of ICT Graduate attributes for Professional level accreditation)