

# SSC Accreditation: Current Challenges and Future Directions

Neil Arnason, Chair  
SSC Accreditation Committee



# Overview

- ▶ Accreditation types and their administration
- ▶ Accreditation benefits and motivations
- ▶ Administrative developments – changing needs
- ▶ Services
- ▶ Professional Development

# Title

- ▶ A bit about my involvement with accreditation issues...
  - On initial accreditation committee
  - Chair, since last July
  - Public member, complaints committee, Psychological Association of Manitoba (PAM)
    - ▶ Accreditation = licence to practice
    - ▶ Recent and ongoing changes to legislation
    - ▶ Active debate on responsibilities to members and to public

# Accreditation types

(from the accreditation document)

## ▶ A.Stat.

- should have the equivalent of at least a major or honours degree in Statistics.

## ▶ P.Stat.

- educational requirements as outlined for the A.Stat., or a first author publication in a refereed statistical or methodological journal;
- at least six years practical experience in applying statistics at a substantial level together with acceptable evidence of knowledge, competence, and contributions to the subject and its applications; and
- evidence of broad professional experience after attaining the A.Stat. level of qualification.

# Administration

## ▶ Chair and Committee (see [ssc.ca/committees](http://ssc.ca/committees))

- Review applications (twice a year)
- Recommend changes in accreditation process/policy
- Maintain documents, web site
- Information to public (referrals, directory of accredited members)
- Services to members
- Nominate replacement members (every second year)

## ▶ Appeals Committee

- Application appeals; reinstatement appeals
- Adjudicate complaints of “professional misconduct, professional negligence, abuse or misuse of the professional designation privilege, or conduct in breach of professional ethics”

# Accreditation benefits

## ▶ To the individual (see brochure)

- Seal of approval by peers
- Bragging rights (P.Stat. designation, seal, certificate)
- Facilitate professional development
- Consulting/job opportunities via registry
- Communication/support resources (forum, ethical standards)
- Protection (appeals procedure)

## ▶ To the employer

- Employee pool; quality assurance (professional experience, communication standards, ethical standards)
- Ongoing professional development/mentoring
- Employees more connected to profession

# Forces for Accreditation

- ▶ Governments want professions to have public accountability; standards for
  - Admission, competence, practice
  - Complaint process
  - Public registry of practitioners/ areas of competence
- ▶ Regulators/Applied journals
  - Need qualified statistician to “sign off” on study design, analysis, adherence to protocols
- ▶ Competitive aspects
  - Others ready to step in (e.g. engineers)
  - ASA

# Current issues

## ▶ Reviewing:

- Types of P. Stat. applicants changing
- Difficulties in assessment - education, experience, communication skills
- Areas of competency
- Re-review accredited programs every 4 years

## ▶ Maintenance of Accreditation status

- Review PD activities
- Keep database up to date
- Changing competencies
- Family leaves

# Current issues...cont'd

## ▶ Documentation:

- Official document has legal standing
- Need for operational documents... (MacKay and Oldford May 2006); separate legal fixed points from changeable details
- Need a “constitution committee” to assess needs and evolve procedures and documents

## ▶ Web site

- Forum
- Registry (like CRHSSP?) ...keeping info up to date (a Wiki? <http://ssc-pstat.pbwiki.com/>)

# Wish List

## ▶ Services/Advocacy

- Promotion of accredited status with employers, journal editors, etc.
- Standards for consulting fees
- Need a “public relations” committee

## ▶ Professional Development

- What services can we provide? -
- Will they get used?
- Need a “professional development” committee

# In conclusion...

- ▶ Get accredited, Get involved
- ▶ That's all...



# Title

▶ Text