



Assessment & Appeals Processes for VET Students Policy Number: TL002

Background

Nationally recognised and accredited VET courses have been developed on a competency-based approach to workplace training.

Competency is the ability to meet particular standards of performance required in the workplace. For VET courses those standards are standards developed and endorsed by industry and reflected in specific learning outcomes sought from participants in national Training Packages and accredited courses.

Assessment is the process of determining whether a student has acquired the competency offered by a particular accredited course, by establishing whether or not they have achieved the standards of performance set down as outcomes of that course.

Assessment guidelines are an endorsed component of a Training Package, or accredited course, that set down the principles and procedure to be adopted in determining if competency has been demonstrated. They include the requirements for qualification as an assessor, the design of assessment materials and resources, the conduct of the assessment, the assessor requirements, designing assessment resources, conducting assessment and sources of information on assessment.

Students assessed as competent against nationally endorsed units of competency in the Training Package or modules in the applicable accredited course will be issued with a Statement of Attainment or qualification under the AQF

Policy

a. Assessment for Accredited Courses

- We will comply with all Assessment Guidelines in the nationally endorsed Training Packages or the assessment requirements specified in accredited courses, within our scope of registration.

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- The VET Development Officer/Executive Officer must consult with the tutor/s and/or course co-ordinator regarding the assessment and evaluation process prior to the course commencing.
- It is the responsibility of the Executive Officer to ensure
 - all assessment and evaluation processes are fair and transparent
 - all assessment and evaluation processes strictly adhere to the criteria in the curriculum and/or Training Package
 - that the College's Access and Equity policy is followed and provides fair assessment and evaluation processes that recognize the particular equity issue
- Assessments will be conducted by experienced and qualified personnel who have the following competencies :
 - a. BSZ401A Plan Assessment;
 - b. BSZ402A Conduct Assessment;
 - c. BSZ403A Review Assessment; and
 - d. relevant vocational competencies, at least to the level being assessed.
- If a person does not have all of these competencies, one person with competencies (a),(b) and (c), and one or more people with competency (d) may work together to conduct assessments.
- We will ensure that our assessment process is valid, reliable, fair, and flexible. All assessment will recognise equity issues without compromising the integrity of the assessment.
- At the commencement of the course students will be advised of the purpose of assessment and the criteria and requirements they will need to meet to obtain a qualification.
- Where relevant, assessment will focus on the application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace and cover all aspects of workplace performance including task skills, task management skills, contingency management skills and job role environment skills.
- Assessment methods may include, where applicable :
 - Observation
 - Role plays
 - Assignments
 - Projects
 - Exercises

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- Questions and Answers
- Work experience under supervision of industry specialists
- We recognise prior learning achieved through past formal education or life experience (See the 'Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) ' Procedure).
- We will evaluate sufficient evidence to enable reasonable judgments to be made as to whether or not competency has been attained.
- We will establish an Assessment Plan in which we will list all Units and Elements in which Assessment will be undertaken and details of the Assessment Tasks to be assigned in each case.
- We will consider the needs of individual learners in the assessment tasks.
- Our assessment process will be equitable for all people, and take account of cultural and linguistic needs;
- We will provide feedback to the applicant about the outcomes of the assessment process, and guidance on future options;
- We recognise the need for accuracy, efficiency, privacy, and record-keeping in accordance with our Policy Guidelines, when processing VET Certificates and Statements of Attainment.
- We will maintain an Assessment Record for each student required to undertake assessment.

b. Assessment for General Program Courses

There are no Assessment requirements for General Program non-accredited courses.

c. Appeals Against Assessment

- Students in accredited training courses have the right to appeal against an assessment with which they disagree.
- Any appeal will be promptly determined and the student and tutor advised of the outcome.

Procedure

a. Assessment – VET Courses

- The tutor in consultation with the Program Co-ordinator will establish a Course Summary and a Training & Assessment Plan in which all Units and Elements for which Assessment will be required are listed, together with details of the methods of Assessment proposed, the training implications involved, and a timing schedule. The Plan will be submitted to the VET Development Officer or Executive Officer for approval.

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- The tutor will then determine the Assessment Tasks to be assigned in each case and will forward a copy to VET Development Officer together with a copy of the Assessment Information form to be circulated to students.
- The following completed documents will be submitted by the tutor to the VET Development Officer or EO before course commencement:

Course Summary – Form A01

Training and Assessment Plan – Form A02

Assessment Information - Form A07

- The VET Development Officer or EO will discuss and review the Assessment process with the Programs Coordinator and tutor(s) prior to the course commencing to ensure that the Assessment Information is current, appropriate and ready for distribution to students, that particular cultural and linguistic needs are being addressed, and that the Procedure and requirements of the course / Training Package will be strictly adhered to.
- The tutor repeats the information from the Assessment Information form to the class at the commencement of the course and explains the procedure for gaining Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- The Assessment Tasks will be carried out and evaluated strictly in accordance with the requirements for the accredited course / Training Package and the schedule in the agreed Plan.
- The tutor will develop the Assessment Tools required for the Assessment Tasks using the suggested proformas:

Procedural Observation Checklist – Form A03

Complex Observation Checklist – Form A04

Questions to support complex observation – Form A05

Recording Sheet for Oral Questioning – Form A06

- The conduct of the assessment tasks will be appropriate to the subject area and course content. Sufficient time will be allocated for completion of tasks and they will allow for the special needs of individual learners.
- The tutor will provide to the Program Co-ordinator results of the Assessment on the Assessment Summary (Form A08) together with feedback to the student on the outcomes of the assessment process and its implications for future options, as soon as practicable. At all times the information will remain confidential to the student.
- The tutor will promptly advise the Program Coordinator of the outcomes of the process, including details of those who had not achieved the required level of competence, and the students' response to those outcomes.

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b. Appeals Against Assessment – VET Courses

Where a student disputes the result of an assessment, the following procedure is implemented:

- the VET Development Officer/EO will view the assessment tool to ascertain fairness, validity and reliability.
- the VET Development Officer/EO will consult with the tutor and student, individually.
- the student will be advised of the outcome of this consultation process within 2 working days of the dispute being lodged.
- if it is decided that there is a case for review, a suitably qualified, independent assessor will be employed to conduct another assessment. An assessment date will be negotiated with the student. Following the assessment, the student will be advised of the result within 2 working days.
- The Executive Officer can seek the advice of independent experts for any aspect of the process.
- If the student is not satisfied with any decisions made in this review process, he/she will be given a copy of the College's *Response to Suggestions, Complaints and Allegations* policy and procedure.

If a student fails an assessment or evaluation they will be offered an interview to explain the reasons why. If the failure of this assessment leads to non issuance of the qualification written advice must be given to the student within 2 working days.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Course Summary
Training & Assessment Plan
Assessment Tool proformas
Assessment Summary
RPL Policy
VET Tutor Assessment Pack

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