

## TAAASS402A Unit Descriptor

## Assess competence

This unit specifies the competence required to assess the competence of a candidate.

### Application of the Unit

This unit addresses the competence of conducting competency assessment in accordance with a developed assessment plan. It includes assessment carried out in an assessment and learning pathway as well as assessment conducted in an assessment only pathway.

- The critical focus of this unit is on interpreting the collected evidence and making a judgement of competence against the specified competency standards by applying the principles of assessment and rules of evidence. This unit also covers demonstration of the professional relationship between assessor and candidate/s and the skills needed to support this relationship.
- The achievement of this unit includes interpretation of competency standards, (where competency standards are used as the benchmarks for assessment). *TAADES401A Use Training Packages to meet client needs* addresses this skill in depth.
- This unit does not address the development of an assessment plan or organisation of required resources for assessment, which is addressed in *TAAASS401A Plan and organise assessment*.
- The competence specified in this unit is typically required by assessors.

### Unit Sector

Assessment

### ELEMENT

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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|--|---|
| 1. Establish and maintain the assessment environment | 1.1 The <i>assessment plan</i> is interpreted and <i>assessment system policies and procedures</i> and <i>organisational/legal/ethical requirements</i> for conducting assessment are confirmed with <i>relevant people</i> |
|  | 1.2 The relevant <i>benchmarks for assessment</i> and nominated <i>assessment tools</i> are accessed and interpreted to confirm the evidence to be collected and how it is to be collected                                  |
|  | 1.3 Details of the assessment plan and the assessment process are explained, discussed and clarified with the candidate including opportunities for assessment, <i>reasonable adjustment</i> , re-assessment and appeals    |
|  | 1.4 Proposed changes to the assessment process are negotiated and agreed with the candidate, where relevant   |

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2. Gather quality evidence
    - 2.1 The assessment plan is followed to guide the conduct of assessment and *assessment methods* and assessment tools are used to gather, organise and document evidence in a format suitable for determining competence
    - 2.2 The *principles of assessment* and *rules of evidence* are applied in gathering *quality evidence*
    - 2.3 Opportunities for evidence gathering in work activities/simulated work activities are determined with the candidate and relevant personnel
    - 2.4 Opportunities for integrated assessment activities are identified and assessment tools are modified, where required
    - 2.5 Identified assessment system policies and procedures and organisational / legal / ethical and requirements for assessment are addressed
  
  3. Support the candidate
    - 3.1 Candidates are *guided* in gathering their own evidence to support *recognition of current competence*
    - 3.2 Appropriate *communication and interpersonal skills* are used to develop a professional relationship with the candidate which reflects sensitivity to *individual differences* and enables *two-way feedback*
    - 3.3 Decisions on reasonable adjustment/s, where applicable, are made with the candidate, based on candidate's needs and characteristics
    - 3.4 Reasonable adjustments must maintain the integrity of the relevant competency standards and provide balanced application of the principles of assessment and rules of evidence
    - 3.5 *Specialist support* is accessed, where required, in accordance with the assessment plan
    - 3.6 Any occupational health and safety (OHS) risk to person or equipment is *addressed* immediately
  
  4. Make the assessment decision
    - 4.1 *Limitations* in obtaining and evaluating quality evidence are identified and assistance is sought, where required, from relevant people
    - 4.2 Collected evidence is examined and evaluated to ensure that it reflects the evidence required to demonstrate competency and which:
    - 4.3 encompasses all component parts of the competency standards and the dimensions of competency (where competency standards are the benchmarks for assessment)
    - 4.4 addresses other related documentation
    - 4.5 complies with the rules of evidence
    - 4.6 *Judgement* is used to infer whether competence has been demonstrated, based on the available evidence
    - 4.7 Relevant assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical considerations are addressed in making the assessment decision
    - 4.8 Clear and constructive feedback is provided to the candidate regarding the assessment decision and a follow-up *action plan* is developed, where required
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- 5. Record and report the assessment decision
    - 5.1 Assessment outcomes are recorded promptly and accurately in accordance with assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical requirements
    - 5.2 An assessment report is completed and processed in accordance with assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical requirements
    - 5.3 Recommendations for follow up action are submitted to relevant people, where required
    - 5.4 Other relevant parties are informed of the assessment decision where required, and in accordance with confidentiality conventions
  
  - 6. Review the assessment process
    - 6.1 The assessment process is reviewed against criteria in consultation with relevant people to improve and modify future assessment practice
    - 6.2 The review is documented and recorded in accordance with relevant assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal /ethical requirements
    - 6.3 Reflection skills are used to review and self-evaluate assessment practice

## KEY COMPETENCIES

Key Competency	Example of Application	Performance Level
Communicating ideas and information	confirming assessment arrangements with relevant people clarifying context and purpose of assessment process providing and receiving feedback listening to and translating feedback into assessment practice	2
Collecting analysing and organising information	locating information to interpret evidence requirements using assessment tools to source and collate evidence analysing documents and relevant information in developing assessment activities	2
Planning and organising activities	following assessment plan and timetable for assessment activities	1
Working with others and in teams	collaborating with peers, colleagues, supervisors and other relevant people to generate ideas, obtain advice and receive feedback through the assessment process	2
Using mathematical ideas and techniques	identifying and confirming resource requirements	1
Solving problems	applying reasonable adjustment to assessment activities to suit candidates with specific needs maintaining effective relationships with candidates and other relevant personnel	2
Using technology	recording the assessment decision and following reporting procedures	1

## RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement adds definition to the unit by elaborating critical or significant aspects of the performance requirements of the unit. The Range Statement establishes the range of indicative meanings or applications of these requirements in different operating contexts and conditions. The specific aspects which require elaboration are identified by the use of italics in the Performance Criteria.

An assessment plan is the overall planning document for the assessment process and may include:

- the purpose and aims of the assessment
- the context of assessment
- identified personnel
- relevant competency standards and other assessment documentation
- evidence plan
- identified assessment methods and assessment tools
- possibilities for clustering units of competency for assessment purposes
- identified OHS hazards, including assessed risks and control strategies
- material/physical resources required
- organisational arrangements for conducting assessment
- OHS reporting requirements
- any special assessment needs, e.g. personal protective equipment requirements
- outline of assessment milestones, time lines and target dates
- candidate self-assessment procedures
- connections to relevant organisational plans, policies and procedures

Assessment system policies and procedures may include:

- candidate selection
- rationale and purpose of competency-based assessment
- assessment records / data management / information management
- recognition of current competency / recognition of prior learning / credit arrangements
- assessors - needs, qualifications, maintaining currency
- assessment reporting procedures
- assessment appeals
- candidate grievances / complaints
- validation
- evaluation / internal audit
- costs / resourcing
- access and equity / reasonable adjustment
- partnership arrangements
- links with human resource or industrial relations systems
- links with overall quality management system

Organisational/legal/ethical requirements may include:

- assessment system policies and procedures
- reporting, recording and retrieval systems for assessment
- licensing / legal ramifications of assessing competence
- requirements of training and / or assessment organisations relating to assessment and validation
- quality assurance systems
- business and performance plans
- collaborative / partnership arrangements
- policies, procedures and programs
- defined resource parameters
- mutual recognition arrangements
- industrial relations systems and processes, awards/enterprise agreements
- Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), in particular Standard 8, RTO assessments
- registration scope
- human resources policies / procedures
- legal requirements including anti-discrimination, equal employment, job role / responsibilities / conditions
- relevant industry codes of practice
- confidentiality and privacy requirements of information relating to completed assessments
- OHS considerations, including:
- ensuring OHS requirements are adhered to during the assessment process
- identifying and reporting OHS hazards and concerns to relevant personnel

Relevant people may include:

- the candidate/s
- other assessors
- the client, company or organisation
- team leaders, managers, supervisors
- trainers / facilitators
- technical / subject experts
- training and assessment coordinators
- industry regulators
- employee and employer representatives
- members of professional associations
- Commonwealth department official / Centrelink staff / caseworker
- New Apprenticeship Centre (NAC) personnel

Benchmark/s for assessment refers to:

- the criterion against which the candidate is assessed which, may be a competency standard/unit of competency, assessment criteria of course curricula, performance specifications, product specifications

Assessment tools contain both the instrument and the procedures for gathering and interpreting evidence in accordance with designated assessment methods and may include:

- the instruments to be used for gathering evidence such as:
- a profile of acceptable performance measures
- templates / proformas
- specific questions or activities
- evidence / observation checklists
- checklists for the evaluation of work samples
- candidate self-assessment materials
- the procedures, information and instructions for the assessor / candidate relating to the use of assessment instruments and assessment conditions

Reasonable adjustment must not compromise the integrity of the competency standard and may include:

- adjustments to the assessment process taking into account candidate's language, literacy, numeracy requirements
- provision of personal support services, for example, reader, interpreter, attendant carer, scribe, member of community in attendance
- use of adaptive technology or special equipment
- flexible assessment sessions to allow for fatigue or administering of medication
- format of assessment materials, for example, in Braille, first language, use of audiotape / videotape
- adjustments to the physical environment or venue
- revising proposed assessment methods / tools
- considerations relating to age and/or gender,
- considerations relating to cultural beliefs, traditional practices, religious observances

Assessment methods are the particular techniques used to gather different types of evidence and may include:

- direct observation, for example:
- real work / real time activities at the workplace
- work activities in a simulated workplace environment
- structured activities, for example:
- simulation exercises / role-plays
- projects
- presentations
- activity sheets
- questioning, for example:
- written questions, e.g. on a computer
- interviews
- self-assessment
- verbal questioning
- questionnaires
- oral/written examinations (for higher AQF levels)
- portfolios, for example:
- collections of work samples by the candidate
- product with supporting documentation
- historical evidence
- journal/log book
- information about life experience
- review of products, for example:
- products as a result of a project
- work samples / products
- third party feedback, for example:
- testimonials / reports from employers / supervisors
- evidence of training
- authenticated prior achievements
- interview with employer, supervisor, peer

Principles of assessment guide the assessment process and must address:

- validity
- reliability
- flexibility
- fairness

Rules of evidence are closely related to the assessment principles and provide guidance on the collection of evidence to ensure that it is:

- valid
- sufficient
- authentic
- current



Quality evidence addresses the rules of evidence and must:

- encompass the Performance Criteria to demonstrate achievement of the outcomes (Elements)
- reflect the skills, knowledge and attributes defined in the relevant units of competency
- show application of the skills in the context described in the Range Statement
- demonstrate competence over a period of time
- demonstrate repeatable competence
- be the work of the candidate
- be able to be verified
- demonstrate current skills / knowledge of the candidate
- not inflate the language, literacy and numeracy requirements beyond those required in the performance of the competency

Guided means to explain to the candidate:

- what is recognition-based assessment
- what are assessment tools
- how to use these tools
- the rules of evidence that must be met by the evidence they provide

Recognition of current competence is defined as:

- the process of assessment and formal recognition by an assessor of competence currently held by a candidate which has been gained through any combination of formal, informal training and education, work experience or real life experiences

Communication skills may include:

- providing constructive and supportive feedback
- using active listening
- using appropriate questioning to clarify and confirm instructions for evidence gathering
- accurately interpreting verbal messages
- assisting candidates to paraphrase advice/instructions to the assessor
- making clear and concrete presentations of options / advice

Interpersonal skills may include:

- accurately interpreting non-verbal messages
- engaging in two-way interaction
- using language appropriate to candidate, assessment context and work performance addressed by competency standards
- using language and concepts appropriate to cultural differences
- using culturally inclusive and sensitive techniques

Individual differences may include:

- English language, literacy and numeracy barriers
- physical impairment or disability involving hearing, vision, voice, mobility
- intellectual impairment or disability
- medical conditions such as arthritis, epilepsy, diabetes and asthma that are not obvious but may impact on assessment
- learning difficulties
- psychiatric or psychological disability
- religious and spiritual observances
- cultural images / perceptions
- age
- gender

Feedback may include:

- ensuring assessment process is understood
- ensuring candidate concerns are addressed
- enabling question and answer
- confirming outcomes
- identifying further evidence to be provided
- discussing action plans
- confirming gap training needed
- information regarding available appeal processes
- suggesting improvements in evidence gathering and presentation

Specialist support may include:

- assistance by third party - carer, interpreter
- support from specialist educator
- development of online assessment activities
- support for remote or isolated candidates and/or assessors
- support from subject matter or safety experts
- advice from regulatory authorities
- assessment teams / panels
- support from lead assessors
- advice from policy development experts

Addressed may include:

- stopping the assessment until the OHS risk is rectified
- stopping the assessment until the equipment is fixed or replaced

Limitations may relate to:

- job role and responsibilities
- meeting candidate needs
- assessment panels
- training and/or assessment organisation's quality processes
- personal competency level
- organisational, industry and national training requirements
- personal level of knowledge of competency-based assessment
- legal responsibilities

All component parts of the competency standards refers to:

- Elements
- Performance Criteria
- Range Statement / range of variables, including:
  - contextualisation
  - link to knowledge and enterprise requirements
  - focus of assessment
  - underpinning language, literacy and numeracy requirements
- evidence guide requirements, including:
  - underpinning / required knowledge
  - underpinning / required skills and attributes
  - underpinning language, literacy and numeracy requirements
- Key Competencies / generic skills
- critical aspects of evidence to be considered/quality evidence requirements
- concurrent assessment and interdependence of units
- assessment methods / resources / context
- dimensions of competency, which include:
  - task skills
  - task management skills
  - contingency management skills
  - job role / environment skills

Related documentation may include:

- Assessment Guidelines of the relevant Training Package/s
- the assessment criteria of accredited modules
- evidence to be collected as set out in assessment plans
- definition and interpretation of evidence in developed assessment tools
- any requirements of OHS, legislation, codes of practice, standards, guidelines
- indicators and levels of competence of the National Reporting System
- organisational requirements for work performance
- product specifications
- integrated competency assessment tool

Judgement is a two-step process and means:

- the decision made by the assessor on whether the evidence provided meets the principles of assessment and rules of evidence
- the decision made by the assessor, based on the evidence provided and evaluated, on whether the candidate is competent/not yet competent

An action plan is required when the decision of not yet competent is recorded and may include:

- gap training, further learning
- additional practice opportunities
- additional assessment opportunities/evidence gathering opportunities
- individual facilitation, where relevant
- referral to specialist support

An assessment report may include:

- personal details of candidate
- details of assessment/s, date, time, venue
- details of assessor's summary of evidence considered and copies of assessment papers
- feedback to and from the candidate
- justification of decision
- summary of candidate's action plan
- other critical information including appeals and outcomes
- sign-off by assessor and candidate
- electronic/paper reports to funding bodies

Recommendations may include:

- recommendation to support training and/or assessment in new areas of competency
- recommendations in the action plan
- reassessment
- appeal implications

Other relevant parties may include:

- Centrelink personnel
- Department of Immigration and Multicultural Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA)
- parties nominated by the candidate
- parties to be informed because of contractual obligations

Criteria may include:

- following the assessment plan
- confirming and addressing organisational, ethical and legal requirements where appropriate, including OHS
- providing appropriate information regarding the assessment process to the candidate and explaining all steps, using effective communication and interpersonal skills
- demonstrated application of the rules of evidence and principles of assessment in gathering quality evidence
- demonstrated support and guidance to the candidate throughout the assessment process
- using assessment methods and tools appropriately to gather, organise and document evidence
- applying reasonable adjustments where required / appropriate, in consultation with relevant people
- providing clear and constructive feedback to the candidate regarding the assessment decision
- reviewing range of own decisions for consistency

Consultation may involve:

- moderation with other assessors, training and assessment coordinators
- discussions with the client, team leaders, managers, supervisors, coaches, mentors
- technical/subject experts
- English language, literacy and numeracy experts

## EVIDENCE GUIDE

The Evidence Guide provides advice to inform and support appropriate assessment of this unit. It contains an overview of assessment followed by identification of specific aspects of evidence that will need to be addressed in determining competence. The Evidence Guide is an integral part of the unit and should be read and interpreted in conjunction with the other components of competency.

Assessment must reflect the endorsed Assessment Guidelines of the TAA04 Training and Assessment Training Package.

To demonstrate competence against this unit candidates must be able to provide evidence that they can assess the competence of another individual through a process of collecting and reviewing evidence and making an informed judgement.

The evidence provided must show: how the assessment environment was established and how the candidate's needs were met; how the units of competency were interpreted to determine the evidence requirements; how the assessment plan was followed; how the assessment tools were used in collecting evidence; the basis for the assessment decision using the rules of evidence; communication skills used to guide, support and provide feedback to the candidate during the assessment process; records and reports; and how the assessment process was reviewed.

### Required knowledge includes:

- competency-based assessment covering:
- vocational education and training as a competency-based system
- assessment is criterion referenced / distinction to norm referenced assessment
- criterion used in national VET is endorsed or accredited competency standards defining specifications for performance of work / work functions and skills / knowledge
- reporting of competency-based assessment
- competency standards as the basis of qualifications
- the principles of competency-based assessment
- the structure and application of competency standards
- what are the principles of assessment and how are they applied (validity, reliability, fairness, flexibility)
- what are the rules of evidence and how are they applied (valid, authentic, sufficient, current)
- the range of assessment purposes and assessment contexts
- different types of assessment methods, including suitability for gathering various types of evidence; suitability for content of units; resource requirements and associated costs
- what are reasonable adjustments / when are they applicable / not applicable
- basic evaluation methodologies suitable for reviewing personal assessment practice
- types and forms of evidence, including assessment tools that are relevant to gathering different types of evidence
- practical knowledge of the potential barriers and processes relating to assessment tools and methods
- the assessment system and assessment policies and procedures established by the industry, organisation or training authority

- cultural sensitivity and equity considerations
- relevant policy, legislation, codes of practice and national standards including national Commonwealth and state/territory legislation for example:
- copyright and privacy laws in terms of electronic technology
- security of information
- plagiarism
- Training Packages / competency standards
- licensing requirements
- industry / workplace requirements
- duty of care under common law
- recording information and confidentiality requirements
- anti-discrimination including equal opportunity, racial vilification and disability discrimination
- workplace relations
- industrial awards / enterprise agreements
- OHS responsibilities associated with assessing competence such as:
  - requirements for reporting hazards and incidents
  - emergency procedures and procedures for use of relevant personal protective equipment
  - safe use and maintenance of relevant equipment
  - sources of OHS information

**Required skills and attributes include:**

- analysis and interpretation skills to:
- unpack competency standards
- interpret assessment tools and other assessment information
- identify candidate needs
- make judgements based on assessing available evidence
- observation skills to:
- determine candidate readiness for assessment
- observe candidate performance
- identify when candidate may need assistance throughout the assessment processes
- research and evaluation skills to:
- access required human and material resources for assessment
- access assessment system policies and procedures
- evaluate evidence
- evaluate the assessment process
- cognitive skills to:
- weigh up the evidence and make a judgement
- consider and recommend reasonable adjustments
- decision making skills to:
- make a decision on a candidate's competence
- literacy skills to:
- read and interpret relevant information to conduct assessment
- prepare required documentation and records / reports of assessment outcomes in required format
- communications / interpersonal skills to:
- explain the assessment process to the candidate
- give clear and precise instructions
- ask effective questions
- provide clarification
- discuss process with other relevant people
- give appropriate feedback to the candidate
- discuss assessment outcome with the candidate
- using language appropriate to the candidate and assessment environment
- establish a working relationship with the candidate
- attributes including:
- a willingness to guide and support candidates
- capacity to encourage, accept and utilise feedback
- sensitivity to individual difference and need
- ethical conduct in assessment



**Products that could be used as evidence include:**

- completed assessment tools / templates / checklists
- documentation of evidence collected and assessment decisions
- feedback from candidate / assessor / supervisor
- feedback to candidate with recommendations for future options
- completed assessment records / reports
- reviews of assessment practices and recommended changes to future practices

**Processes that could be used as evidence include:**

- how competency standards and other documents were interpreted
- how assessment activities were scheduled
- how the assessment plan was modified to meet candidate needs
- how evidence was collated and evaluated against the rules of evidence

**Resource implications for assessment include:**

- access to candidates to be assessed
- access to competency standards
- access to assessment materials and tools
- access to suitable assessment venue / equipment
- workplace documentation
- access to documentation / records of candidate to determine specific requirements
- cost/time considerations
- personnel requirements

**The collection of quality evidence requires that:**

- assessment must address the scope of this unit and reflect all components of the unit, i.e. the Elements, Performance Criteria, Range Statement, Evidence Requirements and Key Competencies
- a range of appropriate assessment methods / evidence gathering techniques is used to determine competency
- evidence must be gathered in the workplace wherever possible. Where no workplace is available, a simulated workplace must be provided
- the evidence collected must relate to a number of performances assessed at different points in time and in a learning and assessment pathway these must be separated by further learning and practice
- assessment meets the rules of evidence
- a judgement of competence should only be made when the assessor is confident that the required outcomes of the unit have been achieved and that consistent performance has been demonstrated

**Specific evidence requirements must include:**

- carrying out assessment of a number of candidates, assessed against different units of competency or accredited curricula, following the relevant assessment plan
- at least one candidate must be assessed through an assessment only pathway
- at least one assessment must include consideration of reasonable adjustment and the reasons for decisions and approach
- all must show:
  - the application of different assessment methods and tools involving a range of assessment activities and events
  - demonstration of two-way communication and feedback
  - how judgement was exercised in making the assessment decision how and when assessment outcomes were recorded and reported
- completion of assessment records / reports in accordance with assessment system - legal/organisational ethical requirements
- how the assessment process was reviewed and the review outcomes documented

**Integrated assessment means that:**

this unit can be assessed alone or as part of an integrated assessment activity involving relevant units in the TAA04 Training and Assessment Training Package. Suggested units include but are not limited to:

- *TAAASS401A Plan and organise assessment*
- *TAAASS403A Develop assessment tools*
- *TAAASS404A Participate in assessment validation*
- *TAADES401A Use Training Packages to meet client needs.*