

## **Assessment Policy**

### **1. Purpose and Legislative Background**

Omni College is committed to providing quality training and assessment in according to clauses 1.8-1.13 of Standard 1 of Standards for Registered Training Organizations (RTOs) 2015. As such, Omni College is required to implement an assessment system that ensures assessments (including recognition of prior learning) comply with the assessment requirements of national Training Packages and VET Accredited courses within its scope of registration.

This policy ensures Omni College assessment practices comply with SRTOs, provides Omni College assessors with clear information on assessment processes and evidence requirements, and ensures that assessments are conducted in accordance with the principles of assessment and rules of evidence.

### **2. Policy Statement**

Omni College offers assessment opportunities to all enrolled students. Omni College is committed to ensuring that all assessment is conducted in a fair and equitable manner, meeting the requirements of the relevant Training Package, industry expectations and standards.

Omni College applies flexible assessment options, which recognize the diversity of individual student needs and circumstances, facilitating wherever possible the realization of their learning and vocational goals.

Omni College ensures that:

- all assessment options and processes implemented follow competency-based assessment and Training Package requirements.
- all assessments ensure the integrity of the VET system.
- assessment complies with the Principles of Assessment (POA) as prescribed in the Standard for RTOs.
- evidence submitted for assessment is assessed in accordance with the Rules of Evidence (ROE) as prescribed in the Standard for RTOs; and
- all assessments are conducted by individuals who meet the necessary requirements as noted in the Standards for RTOs.

### **3. Definitions**

3.1 The following words and expressions have the following specific meaning, as in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015.

**Assessment** means the process of collecting evidence and making judgements on whether competency has been achieved, to confirm that an individual can perform to the standard required in the workplace, as specified in a training package or VET accredited course.

**Assessment system** is a coordinated set of documented policies and procedures (including assessment materials and tools) that ensure assessments are consistent and are based on the Principles of Assessment contained in Table 1.8-1 and the Rules of Evidence contained in Table 1.8-2.

**Competency** means the consistent application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace. It embodies the ability to transfer and apply skills and knowledge to new situations and environments.

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** means an assessment process that assesses the competency/s of an individual that may have been acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning to determine the extent to which that individual meets the requirements specified in the training package or VET accredited courses.

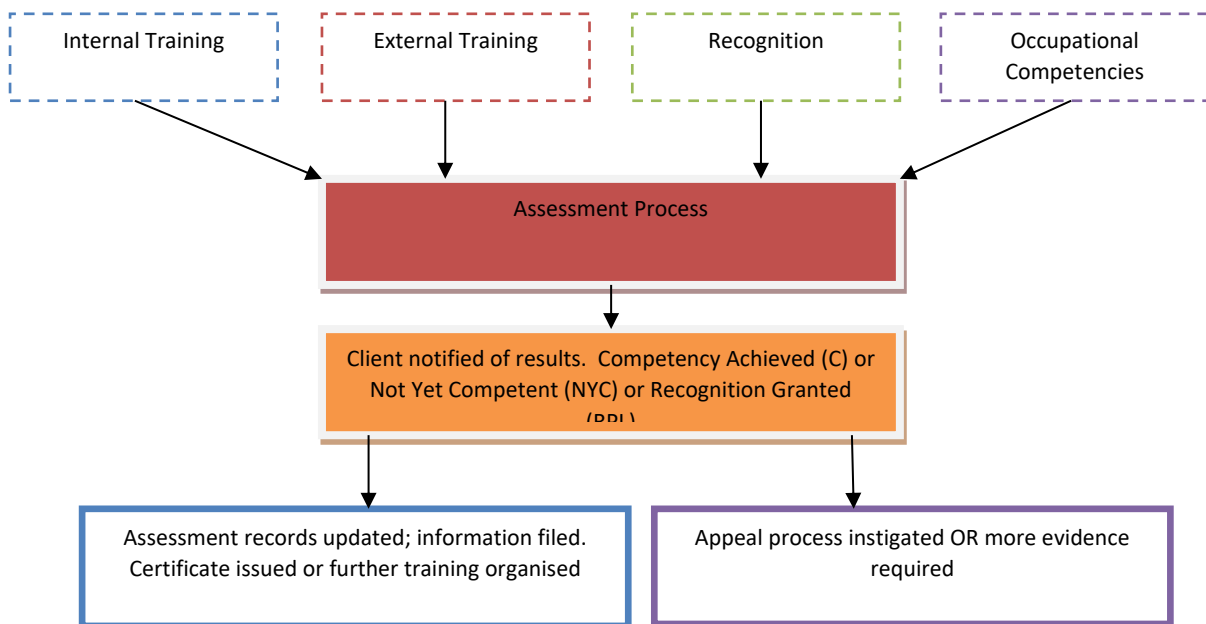
- a) formal learning refers to learning that takes place through a structured program of instruction and is linked to the attainment of an AQF qualification or statement of attainment (for example, a certificate, diploma, or university degree).
- b) non-formal learning refers to learning that takes place through a structured program of instruction, but does not lead to the attainment of an AQF qualification or statement of attainment (for example, in-house professional development programs conducted by a business); and
- c) informal learning refers to learning that results through experience of work-related, social, family, hobby, or leisure activities (for example the acquisition of interpersonal skills developed through several years as a sales representative).

## **4. Policy Principles**

### **4.1 Underpinning Principles**

- a) Competency based assessment is a system of collecting evidence, about a person's performance to a pre-set competency standard with emphasis placed on what a person can do (the outcome) rather than comparing a person's achievement to others. There is no concept of pass or fail, only competent (C) or not yet competent (NYC). The training is focused and allows for greater participation of the student in the assessment process.

## The Assessment Model



### b) Three levels of assessment:

Various levels of assessment may be used, including:

- a. Diagnostic also known as pre-assessment provides information about prior knowledge and skills. This baseline information may diagnose a problem or training requirement.
- b. Formative assessment assists and supports training by monitoring and advising students of their performance and rate of progress against the training outcomes. This provides feedback to the student, supervisor and trainer on what development activities are needed to achieve the required competencies. Assessment accumulates.
- c. Summative assessment evaluates of achievement of the Training outcome. Often conducted in the workplace, summative assessment confirms achievement of the competency requirements. Assessment culminates.

### c) Assessment modes may include:

- a. On-the-job
- b. As part of training
- c. Off-the-job (Simulation)
- d. Completion and submission of assignments / work projects
- e. Recognition of Prior learning (RPL)

### d) Evidence gathering methods commonly used by Omni College may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Projects

- b. Written Assignments
  - c. Workplace assignments
  - d. Workplace performance
  - e. Documentation
  - f. Demonstration
  - g. Questioning
  - h. Role play
  - i. Simulation
  - j. Oral presentations
  - k. Written tests
  - l. Portfolio
  - m. Third party reports.
- e) Assessment is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Training Package, on a consistent and timely basis to ensure that learning has taken place and that students have acquired the knowledge and skills required to demonstrate competency.
- f) All assessments will be recorded in accordance with Omni College Records Management Policy and procedures using appropriate documentation and Student Management System (SMS).
- g) Assessment outcomes will be recorded and securely maintained in both electronic and manual systems.
- h) feedback is provided to students and includes the assessment outcome and guidance for further learning and assessment (as appropriate).

#### **4.2 Special Considerations**

- a) Students who experience unforeseen circumstances or have special needs that affect their performance in an assessment may be eligible to apply for a special consideration and reasonable adjustment to assessment.
- b) Special consideration may apply to students who during training or assessment experience one of the following circumstances:
  - a. Serious illness or psychological conditions for example, hospital admission, serious injury, severe anxiety, or depression (requires doctor's certificate).
  - b. Bereavement.
  - c. Hardship/Trauma for example, victim of crime, sudden unemployment.
  - d. Other exceptional circumstances (to be assessed on application).

- c) Students wishing to apply for Special consideration in the above circumstances may do so by discussing their circumstances with Training Manager Omni College.
- d) Approved applications for Special consideration may be subject to one of the following outcomes:
  - a. Extension of submission date (not beyond 6 months).
  - b. Deferred Assessment.
  - c. Additional assessment.
  - d. No action.
  - e. Withdrawal from course without penalty.
  - f. Resubmit/reassessment; or
  - g. Opportunity to recommence course, dependent on availability on another date.

#### **4.3 Reasonable Adjustments to assessment**

- a) Students have the right to apply for and receive adjustment to assessment activities to accommodate individual/special needs.
- b) Adjustments to assessment cannot compromise the integrity of assessment, elements, and performance criteria of the unit of competency.
- c) Adjustments to assessment will not provide an unfair advantage / disadvantage to students.

#### **4.4 Assessment Submission**

- a) All assessments submitted must include a completed assessment cover sheet, for student identification and disclaimer purposes.
- b) Assessments must be submitted by students within the assessment submission timeframe, i.e., within one (1) after the unit end date as per the timetable.
- c) Students who wish to submit assessment after the given timeframe may need to apply for reassessment &/or re-enroll in the course paying the scheduled course fee at the time.
- d) Students are allowed two chances to be “reassessed” for an assessment which has previously been deemed “Not Yet Competent” without any charges. Fees may apply for a third chance to be reassessed, at the discretion of Training Manager/ Coordinator of Omni College.
- e) Students must undertake further learning and possibly re-enroll, therefore paying a further course fee if they have exhausted all three (3) chances to be Reassessed for any Unit of Competency and are still deemed “Not Yet Competent” for any Unit of Competency.

#### **4.5 Principles of Assessment**

Assessments are conducted in accordance with the Principles of Assessment as prescribed in the Standards for RTOs. Below is an excerpt from the Standards for RTOs 2015 as below:

<b>Fairness</b>	<p>The individual learner' [s needs are considered in the assessment process.</p> <p>Where appropriate reasonable adjustments are applied by the RTO to consider the individual learner's needs.</p> <p>The RTO informs the learner about the assessment process, and provides the learner with the opportunity to challenge the result of the assessment and be reassessed if necessary</p>
<b>Flexibility</b>	<p>Assessment is flexible to the individual learner by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting the learner's needs.</li> <li>• Assessing competencies held by the Learner no matter how or where they have been acquired; and</li> <li>• Drawing from a range of assessment methods and using those that are appropriate to the context, the unit of competency and associated assessment requirements, and the individual.</li> </ul>
<b>Validity</b>	<p>Any assessment decision of the RTO is justified, based on the evidence of performance of the individual learner.</p> <p>Validity requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment against the unit/s of competency and the associated assessment requirement covers the broad range of skills and knowledge that are essential to competent performance.</li> <li>• Assessment of knowledge and skills is integrated with their practical application.</li> <li>• Assessment to be based on evidence that demonstrates that a learner could demonstrate these skills and knowledge in other similar situations; and</li> <li>• Judgement of competence is based on evidence of learner performance that is aligned to the unit/s of competency and associated assessments requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Reliability</b>	<p>Evidence presented for assessment is consistently interpreted and assessment results are comparable irrespective of the assessor conducting the assessment.</p>

#### 4.6 Rules of Evidence

Assessments are conducted ensuring compliance with the Rules of Evidence (ROE) as prescribed in the Standards for RTOs. Below is an excerpt from the Standards for RTOs 2015 as below:

<b>Validity</b>	<p>The assessor is assured that the learner has the skills, knowledge, and attributes as described in the module or unit of competency and associated assessment requirements.</p>
<b>Sufficiency</b>	<p>The assessor is assured that the quality, quantity, and relevance of the assessment evidence enables a judgement to be made of a learner's competency.</p>

<b>Authenticity</b>	The assessor is assured that the evidence presented for assessment is the learner's own work.
<b>Currency</b>	The assessor is assured that the assessment evidence demonstrates current competency. This requires the assessment evidence to be from the present or the very recent past.

#### 4.7 Assessor Requirements

All assessments are undertaken by suitable qualified Assessors who have both assessor competencies and vocational competencies at least to the level being assessed, and as prescribed in Standard 1 and Schedule 1 of the Standards for RTOs 2015.

#### 4.8 Assessment Resources

- a) Assessment resources are developed in consultation with industry experts or procured from VET resource developers.
- b) Assessment tools are the resources used by assessors to identify and record the skills and knowledge students must demonstrate to be deemed competent in a unit/module.
- c) Assessment tools are crucial for the accurate and consistent assessment of students against competency standards.
- d) Assessment tools are required as evidence of assessment and must be retained on record as proof that a person was assessed as competent, for a minimum period of six (6) months.
- e) Assessment tools consists of:
  - a. Instructions for students.
  - b. Instructions for assessors.
  - c. Assessment instruments.
  - d. Pre assessment briefing.
  - e. Assessment checklists; and
  - f. Assessment outcome Summary.

#### 4.9 Assessment Validation

Omni College assessment policies, processes, resources, and outcomes are validated regularly. (See Validation Policy)

#### 4.10 Assessment Marking

- a) Assessments are not graded.

- b) Assessments are assessed/marked in order of submission date.
- c) When marking assessments, Assessors will make comments and provide genuine feedback for the entire assessment.
- d) Students are notified of assessment outcomes within two (2) weeks of submission.

#### **4.11 Assessment Decisions and Outcomes**

- a) Assessment outcomes are recorded as one of the following:
  - a. Competent (C) - Students are deemed 'competent' when they have consistently demonstrated their skills and knowledge to the standard required in the workplace, for a full unit/module.
  - b. Not Yet Competent (NYC) – Students are deemed 'Not Yet Competent' when they are unable/have not demonstrated appropriate levels of competence in accordance with the minimum performance standards for a full unit/module.
- b) Students assessed as 'Not Yet competent' shall receive feedback and guidance from the Assessor and may be required to undergo further training before re-assessment.

#### **4.12 Assessor Code of Conduct**

All Omni College Assessors abide by the following code of conduct. The Code of Conduct below is based on the international standards and the ethics & practices that are described in the Training and Education Training Package 2016.

- a) The differing needs of students will be identified and handled with sensitivity.
- b) Conflict of interest in the assessment process will be identified with appropriate referrals made to the operations manager when identified.
- c) All forms of harassment will be managed throughout the planning, conduct, reviewing and reporting of the assessment outcomes as per the Access and Equity Policy.
- d) The rights of the student are protected during and after the assessment.
- e) Personal or interpersonal factors that are not relevant to the assessment of competency must not influence the assessment outcomes as per the Complaints and Appeals Policy.
- f) The student is made aware of rights and processes of appeal.
- g) Evidence that is gathered during the assessment is verified for validity, reliability, authenticity, sufficiency, and currency.
- h) Assessment decisions are based on available evidence that can be accessed and verified by another assessor.
- i) Assessments are conducted within the boundaries of the assessment system policies and procedures.



- j) Formal agreement is obtained from both the student and the assessor that the assessment was carried out in accordance with the procedures briefed before the commencement of the assessment.
- k) Assessment tools, systems, and procedures are consistent with equal opportunity legislation.
- l) Prior to the assessment the student is informed of all assessment reporting processes and all known potential consequences of decisions arising from the assessment.
- m) Confidentiality is maintained regarding assessment results and are only released with the written permission of the student.
- n) The assessment results are used consistently with the purpose explained to the student.
- o) Self-assessments are periodically conducted to ensure current competencies against the Training and Assessment Competency Standards.
- p) Professional development opportunities are identified and sought by assessors.
- q) Opportunities for networking amongst assessors are created and maintained with technical assistance in planning, conducting, and reviewing assessment procedures and outcomes.

#### **4.13 Recognition of Prior Learning**

All students are offered access to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Recognition of Current Competency upon enrolment. (See Recognition & Credit Policy)

#### **4.14 Plagiarism, Cheating and Collusion in Assessment**

- a) Plagiarism, cheating and collusion in assessment are expressly prohibited.
- b) Students cannot submit any piece of work for assessment that is not entirely their own work.
- c) Students cannot assist other Omni College students with assessed work.
- d) Students cannot accept assistance from other Omni College students with assessed work.
- e) Students cannot submit the same piece of work for assessment, as another learner/student of Omni College.
- f) All cases of plagiarism, cheating and collusion are treated as a serious matter and will be reviewed and treated on a case-by-case basis.
- g) Depending on severity and circumstances, penalties of plagiarism, cheating and collusion may include one or more of the following (i.e., sanctions may not be discrete):
  - a. Completion and resubmission of a new assessment task; and/or
  - b. All parties receiving a “Not Yet Satisfactory” result for the assessment task; and/or
  - c. Verbal or written warning; and/or
  - d. Suspension or expulsion from the course.
- h) Student records will be noted with all investigated and proven incidents.

- i) All incidents will be reviewed by the CEO Omni College.

## **5. Omni College Responsibilities**

### **5.1 Training Manager/ Coordinator**

Training Manager/ Coordinator is responsible for ensuring assessments comply with the requirements of National Training packages, the current AQF Handbook and the Standards for Registered Training Organisations and that they are within the current scope of registration.

The Training Manager/ Coordinator Omni College must ensure the assessment process is open, structured, consistent, and comprehensive incorporating feedback to the student on the outcomes of the assessment process, as well as information regarding the appeals procedure and guidance on other options.

The Training Manager/ Coordinator Omni College is responsible for ensuring the assessment strategies are designed with the flexibility to meet the needs and circumstances of a wide range of students, including those who may be socially, linguistically, educationally, or otherwise disadvantaged.

The Training Manager/ Coordinator will ensure:

- a) All appointed and authorised Assessors possess and maintain relevant qualifications and vocational competency in accordance with those required in Standards of RTOs.
- b) Students are provided information on the assessment process prior to assessments being conducted.
- c) Assessors incorporate the principles of assessment including validity, reliability, flexibility, and fairness when conducting assessments.
- d) Assessors apply the rules of evidence including validity, sufficiency, currency, and authenticity when conducting assessments.
- e) Assessment processes provide for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- f) An effective feedback mechanism is established and implemented to inform students and students on their assessment progress and results.
- g) An effective recording and reporting process of the unit of competency/module including access to information by students to their records.
- h) Students have access to an open, equitable and transparent appeals process.
- i) Awards of qualifications are in accordance with RTO Scope of Registration as listed by TGA ([www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au)).
- j) Ongoing internal monitoring and validation of the assessment system for quality control checks.

- k) Management and staff participation in an independent (external auditing) quality control process conducted by the VET regulator.

## **5.2 Assessors**

Assessors conducting assessment on behalf of Omni College will:

1. Ensure they assess and judge a student's skills and knowledge of competence against set standards, principles of assessment and rules of evidence.
2. Ensure that safety of the personnel involved in the assessment is always maintained.
3. Ensure that assessment focuses on the application of knowledge and skills to the standard of performance required in the workplace and covers all aspects of workplace performance.
4. Ensure the assessment process is open, structured, consistent, and comprehensive incorporating feedback to the student on the outcomes of the assessment process, as well as information regarding the appeals procedure and guidance on other options.
5. Interpret and understand the performance criteria and evidence requirements.
6. Select appropriate assessment methods and materials.
7. Make fair and objective judgements.
8. Abide by the Assessor Code of Conduct.
9. Provide all relevant paperwork to administration for processing in a timely manner.

## **6. Appeals**

Students have the right to appeal an assessment decision. (See Appeals Policy)

## **7. Access and Equity**

Students have fair and equal rights to assessment. (See Access and Equity Policy)

## **8. Records Management**

All completed assessment items for all students will be kept by Omni College for a minimum of six (6) months.

All assessment outcomes will be recorded and kept for a period of 30 years.

All documentation from Assessment processes is maintained in accordance with Records Management Policy. (See Records Management Policy)

## **9. Monitoring and Improvement**

All Assessment practices are monitored by the Training Manager Omni College and areas for improvement identified and acted upon. (See Continuous Improvement Policy)

## **10. Management Action and Responsibility**

*The policy must be approved by the CEO before it takes effect.*