

Third-Party Certificate and Certification Assessment Rubric



Assessment integrity is a cornerstone of meaningful achievement. To support confidence in externally earned learning, WGU evaluates third-party certificates, certifications, and other assessments against standards related to quality, relevance, security, transparency, and learner value. WGU evaluates external experiences such as industry certifications and other third-party assessments to determine alignment with WGU competencies, assessment quality expectations, and academic standards.

This rubric outlines the criteria WGU uses when evaluating third-party certificates, certifications, and other external assessments for potential recognition and alignment within WGU programs and processes.

How To Use This Rubric



Starred aspects are required for WGU to accept the product as transfer credit. The criteria for starred aspects must be rated as **Meets**. Aspects not highlighted are beneficial, but if the certification provider does not offer the information or it is rated **Does Not Meet**, the product may still be accepted for WGU credit if the mandatory aspects are all rated **Meets**.

Questions regarding this rubric can be sent to credentialintegrity@wgu.edu.

		★ = essential standard	MEETS	DOES NOT MEET
VALUE	★ Value for Students		Significant opportunity exists for students to obtain value from the third-party product. OR Projections indicate that the demand will grow in the near future.	The opportunity will have value for few students. OR Projections indicate that the demand is small and will stay that way or decrease.
	★ Assessment Leveling		The third-party product assesses at the same cognitive level defined in the WGU evidence statements	The third-party product assesses different cognitive levels than defined in the WGU evidence statements.
	★ Content Mapping		Competency-level content mapping or crosswalk documentation indicates an 80% match between third-party product and WGU content if the remaining 20% is covered elsewhere in degree program. OR Content mapping indicates >80% match between third-party product and WGU content if the content is not covered elsewhere in the degree program.	Competency-level content mapping or crosswalk documentation indicates significant gaps between the third-party product and WGU content. OR The organization will not provide mapping documentation.
MARKETABILITY	★ Subject Matter Expert Confirmation		WGU SME review confirms that content matches WGU courses/competencies.	WGU SME review confirms that content matches WGU courses/competencies.



= essential standard

MEETS

DOES NOT MEET

INTEGRITY



Standard Setting Methodology

The method and rationale for establishing cut scores are documented clearly and in detail and meet industry best practices.

Method and rationale are not documented, documented poorly, the methodology does not support the cut score, and/or does not meet industry best practices.



Test Specifications

Test specifications are available, including a description of the content, intended purpose, and use of test results, test length, and administration format.

Test specifications are not available or only partially available.



Authenticity

Assessment is proctored (remote or in-person).
OR
Sufficient measures are in place to ensure test session security, student identity, and misconduct prevention. "Sufficient" is defined as meeting or exceeding the WGU standard procedures for test security as outlined in [WGU Assessment Policies](#).

No (or insufficient) measures to ensure test session security, student identity, and misconduct prevention.



Item and Content Security

Clear, articulated measures are in place and applied to ensure item and content security. A plan is present for mitigating a content breach.

No (or insufficient) measures are in place to ensure the security of test items and content.



Delivery of Results to WGU

Third-party organization can securely deliver results directly to WGU through a technology integration or other secure means.

Test specifications are not available or only partially available.

Item/Test Psychometric Data

Desired and actual psychometric properties of the assessment are available for WGU review and are appropriate based on psychometrician review. For assessments using multiple forms, form equivalency data is provided.

Desired and/or actual psychometric properties of the assessment are unavailable for WGU review.

Practice Opportunities

Practice assessments are available for students.

Practice assessments are not available.

