



Become a leader in assessment

# Assessment of Student Learning

Graduate Certificate in Education

Course Guide



## Enrolment

We have courses starting in January and July, so you can choose the timing that works best for you.

We understand not everyone comes from the same starting point. Whether you're new to teaching or have decades of experience, our program is tailored to those who want to become leaders in student assessment.

That's why our entry requirements are simple:

- You have an undergraduate degree (at least) in a relevant discipline from an approved tertiary institution
- You are working in an education setting

Enrolments for January and July courses are now open. Apply today and take the next step in your career with ACER.

Got questions about your eligibility? Our team is on hand with the answers.



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# Become a leader in assessment

## Assessment of Student Learning Graduate Certificate in Education

### Overview

Schools are relying on assessments more than ever before, but few people understand how to tap into their potential to improve real-life learning every day.

Equip yourself with the real-world skills to put yourself at the forefront of education with ACER's Graduate Certificate in Education: Assessment of Student Learning.

Drawing on the world-leading research and assessment expertise of ACER, the Assessment of Student Learning program ignites new thinking about assessment and provides the practical techniques to make an immediate impact on students' learning progress.

Discover new concepts in student assessment, while challenging and extending your understanding of existing approaches. Gain the practical skills to evaluate and implement the right assessment tools in different contexts. Learn how to analyse and apply data to plan teaching and make more informed decisions to support student growth.

Wherever you are in your teaching career, this course arms you with the skills and understanding to become a future education leader. The best part is, while the qualification can be achieved in just 12 months, you can put your learnings into practice every single day of your course.

Our 100% online, part-time course gives you the flexibility to study when you want, where you want.

Fast-track your career. By successfully completing this course you will be eligible to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) towards a Master's degree.

## Ready to become a leader in student assessment?

### Apply now.

In this course, you will:

- Gain the confidence and knowledge to make decisions and take action as a leader in assessment.
- Develop new ways of thinking about assessment and its value in student learning.
- Learn how to critically evaluate different assessment methods and use judgements to make timely, appropriate selection in various learning contexts.
- Learn practical techniques to design and implement the right assessments for individual students and contexts.
- Gain the hands-on skills to use assessment evidence to inform and improve current practice, plan next steps for students, and identify professional development needs.
- Get access to the latest global research that is driving educational change in Australia and worldwide.
- Achieve formal recognition with a Graduate Certificate in Education from world-renowned experts in assessment, ACER.

# Why this course

## Put ***yourself*** at an advantage

### **Become the expert in assessment**

Every school today needs an expert in assessment. With the Graduate Certificate in Education: Assessment of Student Learning, you become the one leadership and colleagues turn to when they're trying to solve assessment challenges. You can inform the decision-making process because you have expertise, insights and practical skills to back you up.

### **Immediate practical application**

Put your learnings into practice every single day of your course. Determine whether an assessment is high quality or not. Develop task-specific rubrics for recording student performance and use the results to establish where they are in their learning or identify any gaps in their understanding of topics. Monitor their learning progress over time. Then, have the enhanced ability and confidence to present these conclusions to colleagues, parents and the students. With the Graduate Certificate in Education: Assessment of Student Learning, you can achieve immediate results.

### **Fast-track your career**

Take your next step in your teaching career. Advance your future potential with new leadership skills and expertise, backed by ACER's globally recognised reputation. The Graduate Certificate in Education: Assessment of Student Learning will not only help you stand out in the education sector, it also puts you on a recognisable path to a Masters.

### **Make smarter decisions**

Gain the tools needed to overcome challenges and obstacles to learning progress. By using the right assessment tools to determine where a student is in their learning, you can plan the next steps and make decisions that maximise the effectiveness of your teaching. So, your most advanced students are adequately stretched, and your least advanced students are properly supported.



## Put *your school* at an advantage

As an employer, ACER's Graduate Certificate in Education: Assessment of Student Learning puts your school and teachers at the forefront of assessment.

### Improve learning progress

Give your school the leading edge with staff who have a deep, wide-ranging and evidence-based understanding of educational assessment, and the practical know-how to put this understanding to work. Unlock the value of assessments to monitor and improve learning progress over time. Collect and delve into superior information for teaching and learning. When you have qualified experts in assessment, the whole school benefits.

### Develop your teachers

Support your staff in their personal development. Your experts in well-targeted assessment will help you pinpoint where teachers require professional development or additional resources for support.

### Immediate practical application

Our 100% online course not only enables your teachers to pursue world-class studies without interruption to their work schedule; they will gain skills that can be put into action immediately.

### Provide timely feedback for parents and students

With assessments focused on establishing and understanding where students are in their learning and monitoring their progress over time, you are able to provide more valuable and timely feedback to students and parents. Whether the student needs to be stretched or has difficulties to be addressed, most importantly, you can demonstrate how you are acting on the results to improve learning progress.

## Put *your students* at an advantage

### Empower students

Build students' confidence in their ability to learn by helping them see the progress they are making over time. Learn how to use assessments to provide timely feedback on their learning and progress, so students not only know the next steps in their learning; they can also get involved in the process of setting goals and monitoring their own progress.

### Drive learning growth

Unlock the true potential of assessments to establish and understand where learners are in their long-term learning progress: what they know, understand and can do at the time of assessment, regardless of their current age or year level. Learn how to collect and use information about where students are in their learning to identify starting points for further teaching, set goals for future learning and monitor the progress over time.

### Overcome learning obstacles

Learn how to use assessments to identify gaps in students' understanding of different topics. Diagnose individual student difficulties or areas where they could be stretched even more. Then, identify a starting point for action.



# Why study with ACER



## 100% online

Work online at your own pace. Our part-time, online course gives you the flexibility to study to your own schedule, on any device, anywhere in the world. Our sophisticated online learning environment is designed to provide a seamless study experience. Watch lectures at a time that works for you. Access articles and resources on demand. And connect with tutors, academic staff and peers in real time.



## Dedicated support

Get personalised support from our team. We support you throughout your education, so you stay engaged and on track to complete your qualification, no matter your life and work commitments.



## World-renowned experts

Gain the competitive edge with a course led by internationally recognised assessment experts. Drawing on ACER's work at the forefront of international educational research and assessment, the Graduate Certificate in Education: Assessment of Student Learning gives you everything you need to excel in educational leadership. Take your next step in your teaching career, with the confidence you are backed by the world's best.



## Community of leaders

Thrive in a community of aspiring educational leaders. This course attracts intelligent, creative and ambitious education professionals from diverse teaching backgrounds. You each bring real-world challenges from your workplace into the online classroom to examine and practice together. Talk through challenges with your peers and tutors in the online forum. Share ideas and new thinking. This is where leaders are made.

# Become a leader in student assessment.

## Apply now.

# Course Learning Outcomes

- understand the theories and research evidence underpinning the purposes and principles of assessment and feedback in the teaching and learning cycle
- understand the uses of moderation and triangulation of data sources to inform judgements
- critically evaluate assessment in relation to defined frameworks
- critically evaluate a range of assessment methods, and use appropriate criteria to select and judge evidence
- build students' capacity for self-assessment and peer assessment
- use appropriate criteria to make unbiased judgements of student achievement based on evidence
- use assessment evidence to inform and improve current practice, identify next steps for students and identify professional development needs.





# Assessment to Promote Learning

## UNIT 1: GCEASL01

Designed for professional educators, this online unit of study provides an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the purpose and importance of assessment for learning.

Highly relevant to modern educational practice and designed for direct application to contemporary educational contexts, the Assessment to Promote Learning unit is a response to the data-driven nature of the modern teaching and learning environment. Drawing from research and evidence to improve teaching and learning for all students, unit participants will enhance both their teaching and assessment practices by developing greater capabilities in evidence-based decision-making, effective assessment design and critical evaluation of new and existing assessment methods.

### Key information

 <b>Delivery mode</b>	Online
 <b>Credit points</b>	12.5
 <b>Time commitment</b>	10 weeks
 <b>Unit content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The purpose of assessing student learning</li><li>– The need for assessment reform</li><li>– Design principles for a Learning Assessment System</li><li>– Evolving theories of human learning</li><li>– Empirically based learning progressions</li></ul>
 <b>Unit outcomes</b>	<p>Students will develop knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– the purpose and importance of assessment for learning;</li><li>– the need to ground assessment design in research-based theories of the nature of learning and conditions that support learning;</li><li>– design principles for a Learning Assessment System; and</li><li>– the importance of empirically based learning domains for assessing student learning.</li></ul> <p>Students will develop expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– the critical reading of reports of learning research and student assessment research;</li><li>– the practical skills of critically reviewing school and classroom assessment practices; and</li><li>– the practical skills of proposing enhancements to school and classroom assessment practices.</li></ul>
 <b>Unit requirements</b>	An approved degree, or equivalent
 <b>Unit cost</b>	\$1750.00



# Assessment Methods

## UNIT 2: GCEASL02

In this unit, participants will investigate the principles related to assessment validity, reliability, fairness, inclusivity and feasibility.

Participants will develop practical skills in selecting and implementing domain appropriate assessment methods. They will explore the strengths and limitations of a number of different assessment methods, including traditional methods as well as technologically-enhanced methods. Participants will develop an enhanced understanding of criteria for selecting different assessment methods and how these criteria can be used to inform decisions about assessment in their own educational context.

### Key information

 <b>Delivery mode</b>	Online
 <b>Credit points</b>	12.5
 <b>Time commitment</b>	10 weeks
 <b>Unit content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Selecting and developing domain-appropriate assessment methods</li><li>– The importance of rubrics for recording observations</li><li>– Characteristics of rubrics used in a Learning Assessment System</li></ul>
 <b>Unit outcomes</b>	<p>Students will develop knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– the importance of selecting assessment methods to provide useful information about where learners are in their learning within domains;</li><li>– considerations in developing domain-appropriate assessment tasks including: construct validity, reliability, objectivity, inclusivity and feasibility;</li><li>– the essential importance of task rubrics for recording responses to, or performances on, assessment tasks; and</li><li>– key elements of rubric design including: task-specificity, hierarchical organisation and qualitatively defined categories.</li></ul> <p>Students will develop expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– critical reading of reports of learning research and student assessment research;</li><li>– practical skills of analysing assessment data;</li><li>– practical skills of examining the strengths and limitations of different assessment methods; and</li><li>– practical skills of implementing and critically evaluating "new" assessment methods.</li></ul>
 <b>Unit requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– GCEASL01 – Assessment to Promote Learning</li><li>– An approved degree, or equivalent</li></ul>
 <b>Unit cost</b>	\$1750.00



# Estimating Student Progress

## UNIT 3: GCEASL03

This unit of study introduces participants to processes for drawing valid and reliable conclusions about where learners are in their learning from observations of their performances on, or responses to, assigned assessment activities.

By introducing and examining a range of techniques for drawing conclusions from collected and recorded assessment evidence – including numerical on-balance decisions and professional judgements – this unit aims to enhance the assessment, judging and estimation capabilities of each participant. Participants in this unit will consider factors influencing the validity and reliability of inferences based on assessment data; sources of potential bias in making judgements of student learning; and moderation processes for improving the consistency of assessors' judgements.

### Key information

 <b>Delivery mode</b>	Online
 <b>Credit points</b>	12.5
 <b>Time commitment</b>	10 weeks
 <b>Unit content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Observing and recording learning progress using empirically based learning progressions.</li> <li>– Making make on-balance conclusions about learning progress.</li> <li>– Developing strategies to interpret and evaluate learning progress.</li> </ul>
 <b>Unit outcomes</b>	<p>Students will develop knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the importance of moderation and triangulation of data sources;</li> <li>– the principles of valid and reliable student progress estimates;</li> <li>– the challenges to making accurate and consistent judgements of progress; and</li> <li>– ways to reduce potential biases in teacher judgement.</li> </ul> <p>Students will develop expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– using appropriate criteria to select and judge evidence of progress;</li> <li>– employing appropriate ways to reduce potential teacher biases in teacher judgement; and</li> <li>– providing evidence that supports judgements about student learning progress.</li> </ul>
 <b>Unit requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– GCEASL01 – Assessment to Promote Learning</li> <li>– An approved degree, or equivalent</li> </ul>
 <b>Unit cost</b>	\$1750.00



# Using Assessment Evidence to Inform Teaching and Learning

## UNIT 4: GCEASL04

This unit of study focuses on the uses of assessment evidence in teaching and learning cycles, with a particular emphasis on using collected data to inform teaching practices and learning decisions.

By examining and understanding research related to the effective use of assessment information, and identifying the important role of accurate, constructive and timely two-way feedback in the teaching and learning cycle, participants will increase their ability to successfully monitor and report on student progress. Participants will improve their capabilities in identifying next steps in student learning and develop skills to construct programs that are monitor learning progress and provide appropriate feedback, while helping to extend their own overall capacity as teaching and learning professionals.

### Key information

 <b>Delivery mode</b>	Online
 <b>Credit points</b>	12.5
 <b>Time commitment</b>	10 weeks
 <b>Unit content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Using assessment conclusions as starting points for action</li><li>– Monitoring learning progress</li><li>– Creating a learning culture</li><li>– The importance of feedback</li><li>– Supporting students to monitor their own learning</li></ul>
 <b>Unit outcomes</b>	<p>Students will develop knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– research-based ideas related to the effective use of assessment information to inform teaching practice;</li><li>– the importance of accurate, constructive and timely two-way feedback in the teaching and learning cycle; and</li><li>– the importance of building student self- assessment and peer-assessment capability.</li></ul> <p>Students will develop expertise in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– using evidence to inform teaching and learning decisions;</li><li>– monitoring and reporting on student progress to identify next steps in learning;</li><li>– integrating timely and constructive feedback in teaching and learning programs; and</li><li>– providing evidence of students' self assessment and peer assessment.</li></ul>
 <b>Unit requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– GCEASL01 – Assessment to Promote Learning</li><li>– An approved degree, or equivalent</li></ul>
 <b>Unit cost</b>	\$1750.00

# Faculty

ACER is internationally recognised as a leader in educational research and assessment, providing reliable support and expertise to educational policy makers and professional practitioners.

Our core faculty are actively engaged in a number of high quality research and development projects, and regularly contribute to reports, policies and initiatives that help to shape education both within Australia and in an international context.

## Key Academic Staff



**Professor Geoff Masters AO**  
Chief Executive Officer  
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