

Third-Party Certificate and Certification Assessment Rubric

At WGU, assessment integrity is a cornerstone of our credentials. As such, all assessments, whether developed internally, by a vendor partner, or adopted through a third-party partnership, must uphold our standards of integrity, value, and relevance.

WGU evaluates external experiences such as industry certifications and other third-party assessments for transfer to ensure relevance alignment with WGU coursework and to verify that the certifications meet the university’s assessment quality benchmarks and align with our [Core Academic Commitments](#). Each third-party item under consideration for transfer credit is evaluated separately, even if the product was developed by an organization whose other product(s) have been evaluated and met WGU standards. This rubric ensures consistent expectations are applied across the university when evaluating assessments or other third-party certifications.

How To Use This Rubric

Highlighted aspects are required for WGU to accept the product as transfer credit. The criteria for highlighted 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**.

VALUE		
Standard	Meets	Does Not Meet
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.

RELEVANCE		
Standard	Meets	Does Not Meet
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.
Subject Matter Expert (SME) Confirmation	WGU SME review confirms that content matches WGU courses/competencies.	WGU SME review reveals a mismatch between third-party product and WGU content.

INTEGRITY		
Psychometric Quality		
Standard	Meets	Does Not Meet
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.
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.
Security		
Standard	Meets	Does Not Meet
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.
Test Result Delivery		
Standard	Meets	Does Not Meet
Delivery of Results to WGU	Third-party organization can securely deliver results directly to WGU through a technology integration or other secure means.	Third-party organization cannot securely deliver results directly to WGU. OR Students are required to submit their results to WGU.