



COMPETENCY BASED LEARNING

Introduction

In the 1990's, the National Training Reform Agenda established an organised, common-sense system of training, standards and qualifications. This system has relevance for all industry sectors and all vocational training and education bodies. This system is managed by the Vocational Educational Training Advisory Board (VETAB) of each state.

Summary

Each VETAB Accredited Course has learning outcomes, and assessment criteria to determine whether students have achieved these learning outcomes. Students, therefore, can pass or fail. Every assistance will be given to students by Relationships Australia (Australia) trainers and training staff. Students can submit an assignment draft for comment and feedback before submitting a final draft. There is in place, an assessment appeals procedure. The overall aim is for trainers and students to collectively work towards the development of students' competencies such that the course qualification signifies the student being able to achieve the learning outcomes.

Explanation of Terms

Competency is the application of knowledge and skills relative to an industry standard of performance. The concept of competency focuses on what is expected of an employee in the workplace, rather than on the learning process, and embodies the ability to transfer and apply skills and knowledge to new situations and environments.

Competency based learning is a method of study that focuses on what a person can actually do as a result of training.

It represents a shift towards an emphasis on the industry competency standards rather than with an individual's grades relative to others.

Learning Outcome

A learning outcome is a statement which describes any expected improvement in the skills, knowledge or attitudes to be achieved by a learner upon completion of training.

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria are statements that describe in operational detail, what is expected of the learner. If the assessment criteria have been demonstrated, then the learning outcome can be inferred.

<i>AIRS - Policy & Procedure Document:</i>		AIRS Competency Based Learning			
<i>Status</i>	Final	<i>Dated</i>	NOV 2003	<i>Code</i>	Page 1 of 2

Assessment Appeals Procedure

When an assessment decision has been finalised, and the student disagrees with the decision, students can appeal the decision in writing, to the Training Coordinator who will convene a panel of review. See Assessment Policy for more information.

What Students Need to Know

1. Relationships Australia (NSW) courses are accredited and nationally recognised.
2. The courses have established learning outcomes
3. Each learning outcome has assessment criteria.
4. Assignment tasks for assessment are established, and the requirements of successfully completing the assessment are clearly outlined and discussed by trainers.
5. Students can pass or fail an assessment criteria, and hence achieve or not achieve the learning outcome.
6. Students will be given assistance by trainers to maximise their chance of meeting assessment requirements. Students will be informed if they are not meeting assessment criteria, such that they have a chance to rectify their performance.
7. If a student fails, they can appeal the decision, and a formal review will occur.

<i>AIRS - Policy & Procedure Document:</i>		AIRS Competency Based Learning	
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