

Assessment Pattern Schedule

1 Purpose

To establish the requirements of formal Assessment patterns in Courses.

2 Scope

This schedule must be read in conjunction with the Assessment Procedure and is subordinate to it. This schedule outlines critical parameters that will assist Examiners in planning the Assessment in a Course. Where a variation to any aspect of this Schedule is required, the process outlined in the Assessment Procedure applies.

3 Schedule

All Assessment will meet the parameters set out in the Assessment Types Schedule.

3.1 Number of Assessment Items

The number of Summative Assessment Items in a Course depends on the unit value of the Course. Courses that are less or equal to 0.5 units have one (1) or two (2) Summative Assessment Items. Courses that are one (1) unit value and greater have three (3) to five (5) Summative Assessment Items. Courses that are a Research, practice, project, or Thesis component of an Academic Program, may have fewer than three (3) Summative Assessment Items.

All first year Courses in Coursework Programs include a summative Early Engagement Assessment Item. Other Courses have a summative or formative Early Engagement Assessment Item.

Where multi-part Assessment Items are used in a Course, the total number of items across all multi-part Assessment Items is limited to six (6). For example, one (1) multi-part Assessment Item with six (6) parts or three (3) multi-part Assessment Items with two (2) parts each.

3.2 Weighting of Assessment Items

Weightings for all Assessment Items meet the following criteria:

1. The maximum Weighting of an Assessment Item is 50% of the total summative Assessment for the Course, except where the Course is a Research, practice, project, or

Thesis component of an Academic Program, or a Course has only one Assessment Item;

2. The minimum Weighting of an Assessment Item is 10% of the total summative Assessment for the Course; and
3. Early engagement Assessment Items will be 10% of the total summative Assessment of the Course.

Weightings for specific elements meet the following constraints:

1. The maximum Weighting for Marks allocated to the collective component of group Assessment is 50% of the Marks available for the Course;
2. The maximum Weighting for Marks allocated for participation as part of an Assessment Item is 10% of the Marks available for the item; and
3. The maximum Weighting for Marks allocated for peer Assessment as part of an Assessment Item is 10% of the Marks available for the item.

3.3 Assessment due dates and times

1. Where a non-examination Assessment artefact is submitted electronically, the final time to submit the artefact will be at 11.59pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) on the due date.
2. Examination Assessment artefacts are due at specified times found on StudyDesk.
3. Where a Course has an examination scheduled, there will be no other Assessment Item in the Course with a due date less than three weeks before the Formal Examination Period begins.
4. Where a Course has no examination scheduled, the due date for the final Assessment Item is no later than the last day of the Teaching Period.
5. When the Assessment Item is non-replicable, the Course Examiner will inform Students in StudyDesk of the time and location where the Assessment will take place.

3.4 Mandated timelines

1. Assessment artefacts that have been submitted by the published due date will be marked and returned to Students at least one (1) week before a subsequent Assessment Item is due, and not more than three (3) weeks after the Assessment Item was due.

2. For approved and not approved late submissions, marked Assessment artefacts will be returned no later than three (3) weeks after the extended submission date.

4 References

Nil.

5 Schedule Information

Accountable Officer	Provost
Responsible Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)
Policy Type	University Procedure
Policy Suite	Assessment Policy
Approved Date	31/3/2022
Effective Date	31/3/2022
Review Date	14/2/2025
Relevant Legislation	
Related Policies	
Related Procedures	Assessment Procedure Grades Procedure
Related forms, publications and websites	Assessment Types Schedule Assessment and Grades - Roles and Responsibilities Schedule
Definitions	Terms defined in the Definitions Dictionary Academic Program An approved Higher Education Award of the University, consisting of a combination of Courses the successful completion of an offering of which, together with any credit transfers and Exemptions in accordance with the relevant requirements, will fulfil the prescribed requirements for that particular Award. Assessment The process of evaluating the extent to which Students have achieved the objectives of a Course.

[Assessment Item](#)

An individual Assessment task as outlined in the Assessment schedule for a Course. Assessment Items may consist of Assignments or Formal Examinations and may be Formal, Informal, Formative or Summative in nature.

[Course](#)

A discrete element of a program, normally undertaken over a single Teaching Period, in which the Student enrolls, and on completion of which the Student is awarded a grade.

[Coursework](#)

A method of teaching and learning that leads to the acquisition of skills and knowledge and does not include a major research component.

[Early Engagement Assessment](#)

A low stakes summative or formative Assessment Item scheduled early, in the first 20% of the Teaching Period.

[Examiner](#)

A University staff member, normally an academic staff member, continuing or fixed term, appointed to be responsible for the conduct and Assessment of a Course in accordance with the prescribed Course Specification.

[Formative Assessment](#)

Assessment that is designed to assist Students in monitoring their progress through a Course, but which does not contribute towards the Final Grade for that Course.

[Mark](#)

An indication of mastery or non-mastery of an assessment task that takes the form of a numerical value.

[Policy](#)

A high level strategic directive that establishes a principle based approach on a subject. Policy is operationalised through Procedures that give instructions and set out processes to implement a Policy.

[Procedure](#)

An operational instruction that sets out the process to operationalise a Policy.

[Research](#)

Research is the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings. This could include the synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.

[Student](#)

A person who is admitted to an Award Program or Non-Award Program offered by the University and is: currently enrolled in one or more Courses or study units; or not currently enrolled but is on an approved Leave of Absence or whose admission has not been cancelled.

[Summative Assessment Item](#)

Any Assessment Item (Assignment or Formal Examination) used in the determination of a Student's final Grade and should provide for feedback except when it is the final Assessment Item for a Course. Where a Summative Assessment Item is used only to determine whether or not a Student is eligible to be given a passing Grade, the weighting allocated to the item may be zero.

[Teaching Period](#)

The period during which a Course or study unit is offered. Examples of teaching periods include, but are not limited to, semesters, trimesters, blocks, intensives and sessions.

[Thesis](#)

Also known as a Standard Thesis, is the material outcomes of a program of research. It is also referred to as a 'dissertation'.

[University](#)

The term 'University' or 'USQ' means the University of Southern Queensland.

[Weighting of an Assessment Item](#)

	The Weighting of an Assessment Item is the percentage that the item contributes to the calculation of the Final Grade of a Student.
	Definitions that relate to this schedule only
Keywords	Assessment, summative Assessment, Formative Assessment, Early Engagement Assessment, Weighting of Assessment Items, Assessment pattern, Course, Coursework, Research, Thesis, Examiner, Academic Program, submission date
Record No	21/697PL