INTRODUCTION
Authentic assessments measure students’ application of knowledge and skills based on learning tasks that mirror real-world situations.

A CLOSER LOOK

**Authentic assessments are . . .**
- Measures of mastery in a given domain.
- Tools that help learners identify what they have and have not mastered.

**Authentic assessments are not . . .**
- Measures of proficiency for a given class.
- Dependent on one set of materials (except for some professional certifications).

**Example**
- In a journalism course, an authentic assessment might ask students to create a news broadcast. Students’ knowledge of and skills in news reporting will be evaluated based on their performance.
- In a nutrition course, an authentic assessment might ask students to analyze patients’ meal plans and provide dietary guidelines.

**Five Levels of Authentic Assessments**
In the “Assessments Model” table presented below, authentic assessments are categorized into five levels, with authenticity increasing from Level 1 to Level 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Evaluator</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Case-based objective</td>
<td>Auto-graded</td>
<td>Multiple choice, true/false, matching, sorting, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Case-based short answer</td>
<td>Auto-graded</td>
<td>Fill in the blank, problem sets, document tagging, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Case-based long answer</td>
<td>Assessors with rubrics</td>
<td>Short essay, short video presentation, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: Creation or performance</td>
<td>Assessors with rubrics</td>
<td>Long essay, long video presentation, product/solution pitch, report, model development, portfolio, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: Creation or performance in a specific workplace</td>
<td>Assessors with rubrics</td>
<td>Long video presentation, model development, project report, oral examination, job performance, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THREE STEPS TO DEVELOPING AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS**

**Step 1:** Choose appropriate formats for your assessment from the University Learning Store Assessment Model.
- Review the competencies and outcomes you have written
- Consider the potential audience
- Choose appropriate formats
- Follow the two steps below to create an auto-graded assessment or an assessor assessment
AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS

CHECKLIST
Review your assessment to see if it meets these requirements:

- **Auto-graded assessment:**
  - Each assessment contains an authentic case or scenario.
  - Each question directly relies on the information provided in the case.
  - The answers are unique to the associated questions.

- **Assessor assessment:**
  - Each task resembles practices or problems that students will face in their professional fields.
  - The criteria in the rubric truly measure the associated competencies and outcomes.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [How to Create Authentic Assessments](#) by Jon Mueller
- [Creating Authentic Assessments](#) by Canvas
- Rubrics Tip Sheet by University of Wisconsin Extended Campus