

Secure Assessment Hurdles

Guidelines for UQ Staff: Supporting consistent, fair and secure use of hurdle assessment.

1. What counts?

Secure Assessment Hurdle

- Stand-alone supervised assessment item or an otherwise open task with a supervised verification component.
- Confirms identity and that the student completed the task without unauthorised help
- Assures achievement of the learning outcomes
- Must be met to receive a passing grade
- AI may be allowed or restricted
- If AI is used, the task must assess the student's own understanding, reasoning and decision-making.

Performance Hurdle

- Requires completion of specified tasks to a defined standard
- Used to achieve a specific grade in the course
- Often demonstrates a skill or competency needed to progress
- Examples: animal handling, lab safety, basic language proficiency

Requirement (not Hurdle)

- Do not define requirements as secure assessment hurdles
- Institutional: Academic Integrity or Respect modules
- Program: professional practice hours
- Course: prerequisite or accreditation-related requirements
- Task: topic approval, referencing style, coversheet

2. Five conditions for a valid Secure Assessment Hurdle



Security

- Identity verified
- Supervised, including invigilation



Integrity

- Protects academic integrity
- Completed without unauthorised help



Necessity

- Tied to learning outcomes and/or professional or accreditation needs
- Fair and valid measure of learning



Transparency

- Requirements and consequences are clearly communicated
- Multiple channels: Course Instance, Blackboard, task sheets, rubrics, class



Opportunity

- Reassessment provided where possible, especially for in-semester pass/fail hurdles
- Reassessment must also be secure

3. Secure Assessment Hurdles must not...



Be used to compel attendance



Gatekeep access to later learning materials



Constrain accessibility beyond program-level inherent requirements

4. Who is responsible?

Faculty Associate Dean (Academic)

- Provide contextual guidance for secure assessment hurdles
- Set governance requirements
- Consider student experience across programs
- Guide use of multiple hurdles, accreditation contexts, and monitor impact on progression

Director of T&L / Delegate

- Identify secure assessment hurdles in courses
- Map hurdles to learning outcomes
- Ensure assessments assure learning and are secure
- Check the number and timing of hurdles are appropriate
- Monitor and review failure rates

Program or Plan Convenor

- Oversee programmatic use of hurdles
- Monitor alignment with program learning outcomes
- Monitor student progression in relation to secure assessment hurdles
- Align hurdles with accreditation requirements

Course Coordinator

- Decide whether and where a secure assessment hurdle is needed
- Design it as a valid measure of learning
- Align it to course learning outcomes
- Supervise or invigilate the assessment
- Communicate expectations and consequences clearly
- Apply and monitor hurdles appropriately

Good hurdle design is secure, necessary, transparent, and fair to students.