

Technical Skill Attainment Terminology Sheet

Standard: A standard is one or more statements or phrases that clearly define the knowledge and skills to be taught and/or the level of performance that is expected in a content or career area. Standards can be categorized as content standards and performance standards.

Technical Standards (Content)

A statement of knowledge or skills deemed to be essential for all students in a given career. These standards pertain to skills of a particular job or occupation, such as that of a medical assistant or a lab technician, and are established by industry.

Performance Standards

These standards differ from content standards, in that; a performance standard indicates how well we expect students to perform. Performance standards define and illustrate levels of expected accomplishment with respect to one or more content standards. They are explicit definitions of what students must do to demonstrate proficiency at a specific level on the content standards.

Academic Standards (Content)

Focused on traditional subject matter areas such as mathematics, language arts, and science, as well as other areas such as critical thinking or technology. The Maine *Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction* is the academic standards for the State of Maine.

Assessment: The process of gathering, describing, or quantifying information about knowledge and performance.

Formative Assessment

Helps monitor the progress of learning and the acquisition of learning outcomes during instruction; its purpose is to provide continuous feedback to both students and teachers on learning successes and failures.

Summative Assessment

Assessment at the end of student work.

Technical Skills Assessment

A technical skills assessment quantifies the student's attainment of knowledge and skills. This assessment is designed by the industry. Technical skills assessments can be: (1) occupational testing organizations' assessments (such as NOCTI) or (2) an exam (end of course/unit) that is an industry-recognized credentialing exam (such as CNA Licensing Exam or AWS Credentialing Exam) or leads to an industry-recognized credential (such as End-of-Program Exams for NATEF).

Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC): An official, industry-endorsed proof of qualification(s) for a career field.