



Give Students the Job-Seeking Edge! *Workforce Skills Certification System (WSCS) Overview*


Adriana Terry
CASAS
aterry@casas.org

Workforce Skills Certification System




Goal: To promote transition of learners into the workforce

Objective: Learners will be able to utilize the work readiness skills identified and valued by employers to increase the likelihood of getting and keeping employment



Check if Required	Personal Qualities Competencies	Skill
	1 Recognizes a situation of right & wrong and acts accordingly.	Integrity
	2 Recognizes the ethical limits of a situation, assertively confronts others that are pushing those limits. Reminds others of proper behavior. Will refer to higher authority if needed.	
	3 Takes whatever steps necessary to minimize impact of private life on work.	Responsibility
	4 Takes responsibility when an unusual situation demands special attention	
	5 Recognizes when more information is needed, willing to ask for help if necessary	
	6 Recognizes quality work, ready to go the extra mile to make sure that the job gets done right.	
	7 Responds by helping out when needed, even if it means giving up some personal time.	
	8 Makes sure the job is done before leaving, does not leave extra work for next shift.	
	9 Stands up for self where appropriate, doesn't get defensive when criticized, accepts and learns from critical feedback.	Self Esteem
	10 Open to new learning experiences, willing to ask for help when needed. Uses work assignments to gain new abilities.	Self-Management
	11 When things get slow, finds something to do rather than wait to be told what to do.	
	12 Recognizes the limits of own ability, communicates those limits as necessary; seeks help when needed.	Sociability
	13 Uses open and honest communications in order to maintain relationships	
	14 Correctly balances business need against interpersonal relations. Takes time to discuss non work-related issues with associates, but only to the extent that this doesn't interfere with work.	

2017 CASAS Summer Institute 3



	Customer Care Competencies	Skill
	1 Remains polite and professional when interacting with customers who make unreasonable demands.	Customer Relations
	2 Faced with a hostile customer, maintains positive demeanor and earnestly attempts to help the customer.	
	3 Increases customer loyalty by immediately addressing concerns and following up.	
	4 Handles competing customer needs in a calm and helpful manner, follows through on commitments.	
	5 Recognizes when it is best to personally handle customer needs versus when to direct the customer elsewhere	Decision Making
	6 Recognizes priorities, then implements solutions based on an understanding of business need.	
	7 Decides when to vary from routine operating policies/guidelines and when to adhere to them.	
	8 Recognizes when more information is needed for making a decision.	
	9 Recognizes the limits of own authority, correctly decides when to use those limits in order to keep the customer satisfied.	
	10 Evaluates alternatives strategies for customer satisfaction, then chooses one that minimizes harm and makes the customer feel supported.	Commitment to Quality
	11 Proactively assists peers for the purpose of increasing overall quality of company operations.	
	12 Voice and body language communicate to the customer that satisfying the customer's need is of highest importance.	
	13 Balances own work schedule against customer needs; willingly makes adjustments.	
	14 Determines customer need and improves customer relations by "listening" to customer comments and requests.	

Note: "Customer" does not refer only to individuals external to the organization. Also included are internal employees, persons in another unit/area, for whom such activities are performed.

2017 CASAS Summer Institute 4

WSCS is a three step process:

Step 1 - Profile Skills

Step 2 - Develop Skills

Step 3 - Certify Skills

Step 1 - Profile skills

work-related academic skills
with CASAS' Reading & Math assessments

work behaviors (soft skills)
with LRI's Personal Quality & Customer Care assessments



Workforce Skills Certification System
A program of OIGW and LRI

Workforce Skills Profile


Assessed to: James Lopez
By Agency: Reading Skills Adult School
Date Issued: October 12, 2016

Work-related Academic Skills

Assessment: *Advanced*


Soft Skills

Assessment: *Advanced*



Workforce Skills Profile

Awarded to: Damon Lozano
By Agency: Rolling Hills Adult School
Date Issued: January 12, 2016



WSCS Profile

Work-related Academic Skills


Basic		Advanced		Work related Academic Skills typically demonstrated at this level
1	2	3	4	
1	2	3	4	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets common written material related to everyday needs and to job. Understands the overall structure of most written materials in everyday and work contexts. Interprets text in standard organizational formats, including tables and checklists. Finds information in directories and simple reference materials. Interprets illustrations and simple diagrams. Has sufficient reading skills necessary for using a computer for common purposes such as reading routine e-mail and understanding Web page content. <p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses mental math to solve simple problems. Converts and calculates with units of time. Calculates linear measurement in inches, feet and miles. Uses common measurement instruments. Interprets data in tables and charts. Records data in simple formats.

Soft Skills

Basic		Advanced		Personal Quality Skills demonstrated
1	2	3	4	
1	2	3	4	<p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the opportunity to break a rule and probably get away with it, but decides to follow the rule. Tries to stop others who are about to break a rule, reminds them of the rules and what could happen if they get caught. Will go to a manager or supervisor if necessary. <p>Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tries to keep private life from affecting work. Willing to ask for help, more information or clearer instructions. Responds by helping out when needed, even if it means giving up some personal time. <p>Self-Esteem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willing to try new things, learn new skills and ask for help when needed. <p>Sociability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is quiet and honest with coworkers because he/she knows it's easier to work with people when everyone gets along.
1	2	3	4	<p>Customer Care Skills demonstrated</p> <p>Committed to Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriately uses voice and body language communicate to the customer that satisfying the customer's needs is of highest importance. Balances own work schedule against customer needs; willingly makes adjustments. Determines customer need and improves customer relations by "listening" to customer comments and requests. <p>Customer Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains polite and professional when interacting with customers who make unreasonable demands. Faced with a hostile customer, maintains positive demeanor and earnestly attempts to help the customer. Increases customer loyalty by immediately addressing concerns and following up. <p>Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes when it is best to personally handle customer needs versus when to direct the customer elsewhere. Recognizes the limits of own authority, correctly decides when to use those limits in order to keep the customer satisfied.

2017 CASAS Summer Institute
7

Step 1 - Profile Skills



1. Administer assessments:
 - CASAS Assessments *via* CASAS eTests
 - Life and Work Reading- 60 minutes
 - Life Skills Math - 60 minutes
 - LRI Workforce Readiness (soft skills) via the web
 - Personal Qualities - 40 minutes
 - Customer Service - 37 minutes
2. Create a *Workforce Skills Profile* from TOPSpro Enterprise
 - Combines results from Reading/Math and Soft Skills Assessment

2017 CASAS Summer Institute
8

Why a Workforce Skills Profile? Summer Institute 2017

- Documents a person’s work-related academic and work behavior skills (soft skills)
 - Benefit for Learners
 - Documents learner’s current work readiness skills:
 - What the learner knows
 - What skills needs to be developed
 - Benefit for employers
 - Documents job candidate’s work readiness skills
 - Informs employer if prospective employee meets job skill requirements

2017 CASAS Summer Institute 9

Relating EFLs to the Profile Summer Institute 2017

NRS Educational Functioning Levels				CASAS	Grade Level
EFL	ABE	ESL		Score Ranges*	
1		Beginning ESL Literacy	Basic Skills Deficient	180 and below	1
2		Low Beginning ESL		181-190	1
3	Beginning ABE Literacy	High Beginning ESL		191-200	1
4	Beginning Basic Education	Low Intermediate ESL		201-205	2
5	Low Intermediate Basic Education	High Intermediate ESL		206-210	3
				211-215	4
6	High Intermediate Basic Education	Advanced ESL		216-220	5
				221-225	6
			226-230	7	
			231-235	8	
7	Low Adult Secondary Education		Not Basic Skills Deficient	236-240	9
8	High Adult Secondary Education			241-245	10
				246-250	11
				251 and above	12

Profile

Certification

Progress

*Reading, Math, Listening

Adapted from Attachments A and B of the Employment and Training Administration, USDOL: TEGL 17-05 Change 1 — Common Measures Policy for the ETA Performance Accountability System and Related Performance, issued Aug 13, 2007.

2017 CASAS Summer Institute 10

Workplace Behaviors (Soft Skills)

- Personal Qualities (PQ)*
 - Integrity
 - Responsibility
 - Self-Esteem
 - Self-Management
 - Sociability
- Customer Care (CC)*
 - Customer Relations
 - Decision Making
 - Commitment to Quality



*LRI's Workforce Readiness Skills assessment
 To see samples go to: www.learning-resources.com

Step 2 - Develop skills

work-related academic skills
 (refer to ECS Reading and Math competency report)

work behaviors (soft skills)
 (refer to LRI's Feedback and Development reports)



NOTE: Reassess periodically to determine when candidate is ready for certification

Step 2 - Develop skills



Plan and provide work readiness skill curriculum and instruction:

- Utilize WSCS competencies to plan curriculum
- Utilize diagnostic reports to target instruction
 - TOPSpro Enterprise competency reports on learner's reading and math skills
 - LRI Feedback and Development reports on learner's soft skills

Reassess periodically to measure progress

- Create updated WSCS profile

LRI Feedback Report



- **SOCIABILITY:**
- *You are understanding, friendly, flexible, and polite; when you are around coworkers, you participate in whatever is going on, instead of trying to be "invisible"; you get along well with others; you take an interest in what others say and do.*
- Situation In Which Your Performance Was Acceptable
- Is open and honest with coworkers because he/she knows it's easier to work with people when you get along with them.
- Situation In Which Your Performance Needs Development
- Spends some time chatting with coworkers, but not too much. Knows the difference between "down time", when it's okay to socialize, and when it's time to concentrate on work and to let others concentrate on their work.

LRI Feedback & Development Reports

- Identify effective skills and developmental Needs

What developmental option would work for your learners?

- Integrate soft skills into courses:
Academic and technical, VABE, VESL
- Individual or Group Development plans
- On-line development via learner's personal online account
- Workshops and Job Clubs
- Coaching - Modular Curriculum
- On-line curriculum: Customer Service
- Work Experience and/or Post-Employment Feedback

Comprehensive Soft Skills Discussion Guide

- **SKILL: Integrity** - You know right from wrong and try to do the right thing.
- **QUESTION:** Assume you are at work and one of your co-workers decides that he wants to leave work 15 minutes early, but does not want the manager to whom you both report to know that he is leaving early. As your co-worker is leaving he explains to you that he is leaving early and asks you to "cover for him" in case your manager comes by and asks where he is. What would you do in this situation?
- (Possible probes/additional comments: Assume the Manager comes by and asks you directly where your co-worker is. What would you say? What would you say to the coworker before he leaves?)

Comprehensive Soft Skills Discussion Guide

Summer Institute 2017

SAMPLE EFFECTIVE BEHAVIORS:

1. Indicating disagreement with the co-worker's deceitful actions.
2. Informing the co-worker he/she will not lie to the manager.
3. Indicating that he/she will tell the manager the true story.

SAMPLE INEFFECTIVE BEHAVIORS:

1. Seeing nothing wrong with the co-workers behavior (e.g., it's not my business).
2. Agreeing to "cover" for the co-worker or play dumb if questioned by the manager.
3. Indicating disagreement with the co-worker's actions, but a reluctance to state views to the co-worker

2017 CASAS Summer Institute

17

Step 3 - Certify Skills

Summer Institute 2017

work-related academic skills and

work behaviors (soft skills):

NOTE: Candidates will be eligible for the WSCS certificate when scores on Form 551 are 246 or above in Reading, 240 or above in Math; on Critical Thinking and Problem Solving are passing; and on LRI modules are 6 or above



2017 CASAS Summer Institute

18

Step 3 - Certify Skills



Administer certification tests via CASAS eTests:

- a. CASAS WSCS - Form 551
 - Reading (40 minutes)
 - Math (40 minutes)
- b. CASAS Critical Thinking (15 minutes)
- c. CASAS Problem Solving (25 minutes)
- d. LRI Workforce Readiness - soft skills
 - Personal Qualities (40 minutes)
 - Customer Care (37 minutes)

Note: only administer LRI soft skills assessment if student has not yet achieved level 6 overall in both sections.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving



- Choose the test that best matches a learner’s work experience and/or career interest.

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Test Form	Suggested Occupation/Industry Applications
Form 562: Processing Data and Money Transactions	Banking, retail, administrative, clerical, and other business occupations
Form 572: Helping People and Maintaining Safety	Health, education, safety, and other human/social service occupations
Form 582: Analyzing Production and Promoting Teamwork	Manufacturing, technology, investigative, scientific, and other analytical occupations
Form 583: Providing Customer Service and Solutions	Customer service, sales, hospitality, personal services, and other service occupations
Form 584: Working with Materials and Measurement	Construction, maintenance and repair, engineering, transportation, other hands-on occupations

Step 3 - Award Workforce Skills Certificate

Summer Institute 2017


Workforce Skills Certificate is awarded when a learner scores:


- on WSCS Form 551
 - 246 or above in Reading
 - 240 or above in Math
- on WSCS Critical Thinking - pass
- on WSCS Problem solving - pass
- on LRI Customer Care - 6 or above
- on LRI Personal Qualities - 6 or above

Note: If a learner does not score high enough to earn a certificate, print out an updated WSCS Profile for him/her.

Summer Institute 2017








Workforce Skills Certification System
a program of **CASAS** and **LRI**

The following workforce skills have been identified by the individual's responses to employer-validated and nationally normed assessments.



More detailed information can be found at www.casas.org (academic) and at www.learning-resources.com (soft skills).

Work-related Academic Skills	Soft Skills
<p>Work-related Academic Skills typically demonstrated at this level</p> <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reads a variety of specialized or technical materials related to job needs, such as operating instructions, manuals, and technical information Interprets detailed policies and procedures Reads complex diagrams and graphs Reads most materials and communications related to job without significant difficulty Uses print and internet-based references and interpret complex Web sites <p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets data in more complex sorts of graphs and representation Summarizes and reports data for a particular purpose Presents data in various representations and interpretations Applies ratio and proportion Creates and interprets graphs of more complex equations Works with three-dimensional representations and coordinate systems Applies and calculates a variety of rates <p>Critical Thinking and Problem Solving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers analytical questions that involve critical thinking skills such as making observations, inferences, and deductions, drawing conclusions and making decisions. Answers questions that reflects a six-step problem-solving model based on a work-related situation. 	<p>Soft Skills</p> <p>Personal Quality Skills demonstrated</p> <p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the opportunity to break a rule and probably get away with it, but decides to follow the rule Tries to stop others who are about to break a rule. Discusses them of the rules and what could happen if they get caught. Will go to a manager or supervisor if necessary. <p>Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tries to keep private life from affecting work. Doesn't say "That's not my job," when something unusual or unexpected comes up that needs to be done. Willing to ask for help, more information or clearer instructions. Recognizes quality work, ready to go the extra mile to make sure that the job gets done right. Responds by helping out when needed, even if it means giving up some personal time. Makes sure the job is done before leaving. Does not leave extra work for next shift. <p>Self-Esteem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stands up for self where appropriate, on the other hand, doesn't take a personality when a manager points out incomplete or poorly done work, accepts suggestions for ways to do the job better. Willing to try new things, learn new skills and ask for help when needed. <p>Self-Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When things get slow, finds something to do rather than wait to be told what to do. Asks for help when he/she can't do something, whether it's because of a lack of training or information, or things are just too busy to get everything done. <p>Sociability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is open and honest with coworkers because he/she knows it's easier to work with people when everyone gets along. Spends some time chatting with coworkers, but not too much. Knows the difference between "down time" when it's okay to socialize, and when it's time to concentrate on work and to let others concentrate on their work. <p>Customer Care Skills demonstrated</p> <p>Commitment to Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluates alternative strategies for customer satisfaction, then chooses one that minimizes harm and makes the customer feel supported. Proactively assists peers for the purpose of increasing overall quality of company operations. Appropriately uses voice and body language communicate to the customer that satisfying the customer's need is of highest importance. Balances own work schedule against customer needs, willingly makes adjustments. Determines customer need and improves customer relations by "listening" to customer comments and requests. <p>Customer Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains polite and professional when interacting with customers who make unreasonable demands. Faced with a hostile customer, maintains positive demeanor and earnestly attempts to help the customer. Increases customer loyalty by immediately addressing concerns and following up. Handles competing customer needs in a calm and helpful manner, follows through on commitments. <p>Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes when it is best to personally handle customer needs versus when to direct the customer elsewhere. Recognizes priorities, then implements solutions based on an understanding of business need. Decides when to vary from routine operating policies/guidelines and when to adhere to them. Recognizes when more information is needed for making a decision. Recognizes the limits of own authority, correctly decides when to use those limits in order to keep the customer satisfied.

2017 CASAS Summer Institute
23



Thank You for Attending!

- Be sure to visit the CASAS website at www.casas.org
- Follow us on Twitter  twitter.com/CASASsystem and use the hashtag [#casassi2017](https://twitter.com/casassi2017) to tweet updates, photos, and stories.
- Keep in touch with Facebook  facebook.com/CASASsystem use the hashtag [#casassi2017](https://twitter.com/casassi2017) to share photos and post stories.
- Visit us on the  [YouTube Channel](#)

CASAS National Summer Institute 2017
24