

Giving Students the Job-Seeking Edge: Overview of the Workforce Skills Certification System (WSCS)

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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.	
	11 When things get slow, finds something to do rather than wait to be told what to do.	Self-Management
	12 Recognizes the limits of own ability, communicates those limits as necessary; seeks help when needed.	
	13 Uses open and honest communications in order to maintain relationships	Sociability
	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.	

	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.	Commitment to Quality
10	Evaluates alternatives strategies for customer satisfaction, then chooses one that minimizes harm and makes the customer feel supported.	
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.

WSCS is a three step process:

Step 1 - Profile and Certify Current Skills

Step 2 - Develop Skills

Step 3 - Certify Improved 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 **CRMS** and **LRI**

Workforce Skills Profile

Assessed for: **Damon Luciano**
By Agency: **Reading and Adult School**
Date Issued: **October 13, 2010**

Work-related Academic Skills

Score: **1000** / **1000** **Advanced**

Work-related Academic Skills typically demonstrated at this level

Reading

- Understand and apply a variety of reading materials
- Understand and apply a variety of reading materials
- Understand and apply a variety of reading materials
- Understand and apply a variety of reading materials

Math

- Understand and apply a variety of math skills
- Understand and apply a variety of math skills
- Understand and apply a variety of math skills
- Understand and apply a variety of math skills

Soft Skills

Score: **1000** / **1000** **Advanced**

Personal Quality Skills Assessment

Responsibility

- Understand and apply a variety of responsibility skills
- Understand and apply a variety of responsibility skills
- Understand and apply a variety of responsibility skills
- Understand and apply a variety of responsibility skills

Teamwork

- Understand and apply a variety of teamwork skills
- Understand and apply a variety of teamwork skills
- Understand and apply a variety of teamwork skills
- Understand and apply a variety of teamwork skills

Customer Care Skills Assessment

Customer Service

- Understand and apply a variety of customer service skills
- Understand and apply a variety of customer service skills
- Understand and apply a variety of customer service skills
- Understand and apply a variety of customer service skills

Customer Relations

- Understand and apply a variety of customer relations skills
- Understand and apply a variety of customer relations skills
- Understand and apply a variety of customer relations skills
- Understand and apply a variety of customer relations skills

Business Writing

- Understand and apply a variety of business writing skills
- Understand and apply a variety of business writing skills
- Understand and apply a variety of business writing skills
- Understand and apply a variety of business writing skills

Workforce Skills Profile

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

Work-related Academic Skills

Basic Advanced

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Work-related Academic Skills typically demonstrated at this level
								Reading
					◆			<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
								Math
				◆				<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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Personal Quality Skills demonstrated
								Integrity
					◆			<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.
								Responsibility
		◆						<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.
								Self-Esteem
				◆				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willing to try new things, learn new skills and ask for help when needed.
								Sociability
		◆						<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.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Customer Care Skills demonstrated
								Commitment to Quality
				◆				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
								Customer Relations
					◆			<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.
								Decision Making
			◆					<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.

WSCS Profile

Step 1 - Profile Skills

1. Administer assessments:
 - CASAS Assessments *via CASAS eTests*
 - GOALS Reading- 60-75 minutes
 - GOALS Math - 60-75 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

Why a Workforce Skills Profile?

- ▶ 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

Relating EFLs to the Profile

Profile

Certification

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		201-205 206-210	2 3	
5	Low Intermediate Basic Education	High Intermediate ESL		211-215 216-220	4 5	
6	High Intermediate Basic Education	Advanced ESL		221-225 226-230 231-235	6 7 8	
7	Low Adult Secondary Education			Not Basic Skills Deficient	236-240 241-245	9 10
8	High Adult Secondary Education				246-250 251 and above	11 12



*Reading, Math, Listening

Adapted from Attachments A and B of the Employment and Training Administration, USDOL: TEG17-05 Change 1 — Common Measures Policy for the ETA Performance Accountability System and Related Performance, issued Aug 13, 2007.

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

WSCS Soft Skills Assessment

- ▶ Video-based assessment: Learner watches a short video clip of a job scenario and has to decide on the best and worst course of action
- ▶ Applicable, on-the-job situations
 - ▶ Cell phone usage
 - ▶ Working with a team
 - ▶ Helping customers

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



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

Workforce Skills Profile

Awarded to: **Canon Luciano**
By Agency: **Reading Hills Adult School**
Date issued: **April 8, 2011** Certificate was awarded

Work-related Academic Skills

Basic	Advanced
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12
1	2

Work-related Academic Skills typically demonstrated at this level

- Reading**
 - Reads a variety of specialized or technical materials related to job needs, such as operating instructions, manuals, and technical documents
 - Interprets technical symbols and procedures
 - Reads complex programs and graphs
 - Reads most materials and communications related to job without significant difficulty
 - Uses print and Internet-based references and research complex data sets
- Math**
 - Interprets data in more complex sets of graphs and representation
 - Summarizes and reports data for a particular system
 - Presents data in various representations and interpretations
 - Applies rate 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

Soft Skills

Basic	Advanced
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12
1	2

Personal Quality Skills demonstrated

- Attitude**
 - Takes on new roles, jobs and assignments based on job. Responds flexibly to the rules and what must be done if they get caught. Will go to a manager or supervisor if necessary.
- Responsibility**
 - Accepts responsibility for the job, when something unusual or unexpected comes up that needs to be done
 - Working as a team to help solve information or customer instructions
 - Manages quality work. Ready to go the extra mile to make sure that the job gets done right
 - Responds to feedback and other needed, even if it means going up some organizational hierarchy and the job is more before leaving. Does not leave only work for next shift.
- Self-Initiative**
 - Looks up for additional opportunities on the other hand. Does not let a personality where a manager comes and instructions or quality work needs. Accepts responsibility for what is to be done better
 - Looking for the new things, their own skills and sets for help when needed.
- Self-Management**
 - When things get slow. Does something to do rather than wait to be told otherwise
 - When things are busy, works to complete, whether the measure of a task or timing on

Step 2 - Develop skills

Plan and provide work readiness skill curriculum and instruction:

- 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
 - **WSCS Soft Skills Discussion Guide** to help plan activities and curriculum

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
- ▶ Create development plans to best target learners' areas of weakness
 - ▶ Classroom role-playing
 - ▶ LRI Training DVD
 - ▶ Cater instruction to best fit your program and students' needs

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

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:

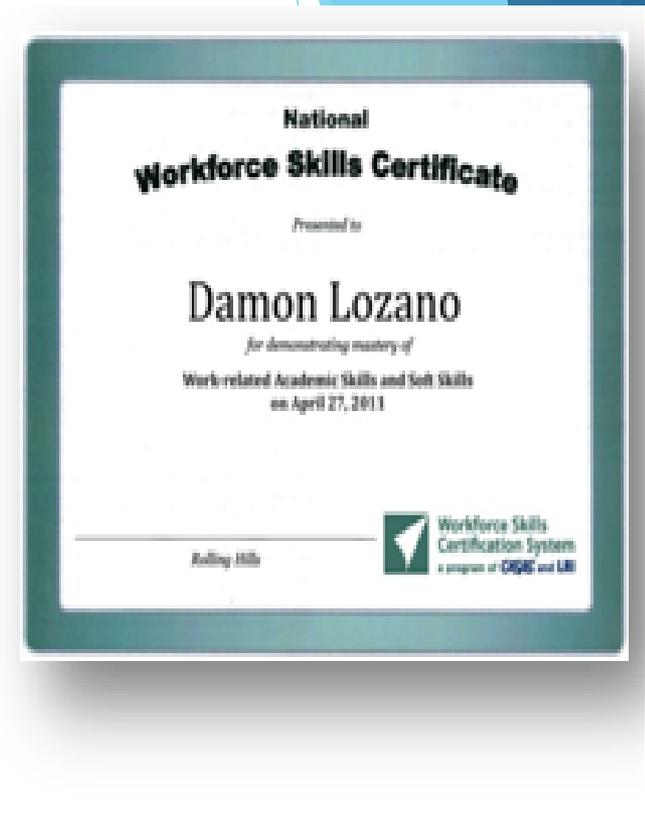
1. Seeing nothing wrong with the co-workers behavior (e.g., it's not my business).
2. Agreeing to "cover" for the co-worker or play dumb if questioned by the manager.
3. Indicating disagreement with the co-worker's actions, but a reluctance to state views to the co-worker

Step 3 - Certify Skills

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



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.

Work-related Academic Skills

Form 551 assesses academic skills

- ▶ Reading
 - ▶ interpreting manuals, forms, diagrams, charts, signs
 - ▶ other types of workplace documentation
- ▶ Math
 - ▶ application of math skills to job-related tasks/situations
 - ▶ basic computation
 - ▶ decimals, fractions, percent, ratios
 - ▶ simple applied algebra

Prepare for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

The WSCS Critical Thinking test questions :

- are analytical in nature
- involve making observations, inferences, and deductions, drawing conclusions, and making decisions.
- include selecting an answer from given responses

The WSCS Problem-Solving test questions:

- reflect a six-step problem-solving model:
 - 1 - Identify the problem
 - 2 - Identify possible causes of the problem
 - 3 - Identify solutions to the problem
 - 4 - Implement a plan to solve the problem
 - 5 - Evaluate the solution
 - 6 - Modify the solution
- include selecting an answer from given responses and writing original responses

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

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

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.

**National
Workforce Skills Certificate**

Presented to

Damon Lozano

for demonstrating mastery of

**Work-related Academic Skills and Soft Skills
on April 27, 2016**

Rolling Hills



**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

Work-related Academic Skills typically demonstrated at this level

Reading

- 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

Math

- 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

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

- 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.

Soft Skills

Personal Quality Skills demonstrated

Integrity

- 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.

Responsibility

- 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.

Self-Esteem

- Stands up for self where appropriate; on the other hand, doesn't take it personally 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.

Self-Management

- 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.

Sociability

- 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.

Customer Care Skills demonstrated

Commitment to Quality

- 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.

Customer Relations

- 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.

Decision Making

- 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.

Wrapping Up

- ▶ For me, a surprise from this training has been_____?
- ▶ I'm still not clear about_____.
- ▶ What will appeal to my learners about this program is _____.
- ▶ I'd like more information about _____.
- ▶ What I may need help in presenting this program to colleagues, administrators, clients, employers or others is_____.

Resources

- ▶ LRI Workplace Behaviors (Soft Skills)

www.learning-resources.com

- ▶ CASAS

www.casas.org

WSCS

wscs@casas.org

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