# Animal studies – assessment advice



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## Assessment

Animal studies is a department approved elective course and is not eligible for credentialing on the Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

The scheduling of assessment activities and the weightings applied should reflect the school's organisation of the course. Students should be given the opportunity to demonstrate their maximum level of achievement relative to the course performance descriptors.

## General performance descriptors

Schools may choose to use general performance descriptors to describe performance at each of 5 grade levels.

Table 1 – performance descriptors for the A–E grade scale

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Performance descriptors |
| A | The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations. |
| B | The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations. |
| C | The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills. |
| D | The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills. |
| E | The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills. |

## Useful assessment strategies

In developing and selecting activities for the purpose of assessing and reporting, teachers will use a range of different approaches. For students to demonstrate a holistic understanding of the Animal studies course, they should be assessed on their theoretical understanding and practical skill development.

### Inquiry-based research assignments and projects

Assessment activities might include independent research tasks to investigate issues and processes, a web-based research assignment or the development of a media portfolio.

When this strategy is used for assessment purposes, students could be assessed on their ability to:

* gather and analyse information
* research information
* communicate information.

### Practical application

Practical application in Animal studies encourages students to take theoretical understandings and apply them to real-world scenarios. When this strategy is used for assessment purposes, practical application provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge and demonstrate their physical skills.

Practical application may include:

* conducting tasks around the farm
* working in a team environment
* observing others participate and providing feedback
* engaging with experts in the field or subject matter.

### Peer assessment

Animal studies encourages the active involvement of students in the learning process. Opportunities exist for individual and collaborative work. Activities involving peer-assessment might include evaluating the contributions of individuals to a group task and reflecting on a peer presentation.

### Self-assessment

Animal studies encourages students to become self-directed learners. Opportunities exist for students to reflect on their progress towards the achievement of the course outcomes. This reflection provides the basis for improving their learning. Developing self-assessment skills is an ongoing process that becomes increasingly more sophisticated and self-initiated as students progress.

### Case studies

Assessment activities can include case studies that explore environmental issues and observing how risk is managed when working with animals in industry. Providing students with scenarios and cases to connect theoretical learning with industry practices allows a better understanding of the relevance of their learning. When these strategies are used for assessment purposes, students could be assessed on their ability to:

* assess the application of planning, risk assessment and management skills
* question, analyse and interpret information to draw conclusions.

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