

Learning Teaching & Assessment Resources

Authentic Assessment Exemplar:

Assessment Title	Optometric Practice Placement: Final Clinical Examination.
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Module Title that Assessment Delivered on	OPTO4816 Optometric Practice Placement
Primary Student Cohort (Year on Programme / FT or PT or Both / UG or PG or AP)	

Overview of Assessment (Max 100 words)

Final year students of the TU Dublin BSc (Hons) Optometry programme undertake a supervised practice placement of five-month's duration in a community optometric practice. A significant element of assessment in this module is a Final Clinical Exam conducted in a "real world" environment. This must be successfully passed in its own right in order to pass the module. This presents several challenges including standardisation of the assessment. It is possible to manage this challenge by having appropriate training and clear guidelines for assessors and by ensuring that students receive constructive feedback in a timely manner.

What Change was Made to Assessment to Enhance its Authenticity? (Max 100 words)

Prior to 2016, Final Clinical Examinations were conducted at the student placement sites. Since then, students complete these examinations in the university clinic (NOC). University assessors are all experienced optometrists and undergo training to carry out these exams. Standardised assessment forms are used for grading, and a feedback template is available to record notes during the exam, allowing detailed feedback be provided to candidates. An independent external examiner for the optometry programme is present to oversee the examinations. Subsequently a meeting of assessors, including the external examiner, is held to moderate candidate grading, and offer peer support to the assessors.

What was the Impact on Student Engagement / Performance? (Max 100 words)

This is the final clinical examination before registration with CORU's Optical Registration Board (ORB). The examination must be passed in its own right in order to successfully complete the module. Given its importance, final-year optometry students have always been very engaged in the process. In the 2022-23 academic year, twenty-six candidates undertook the examinations. Ultimately, one candidate was required to repeat the module. There was no criticism of the final clinical exam process by any candidate in the Q6A survey of students.

One Thing you would do Differently Next Time (Max 50 words)

The programme team reviews these assessments after each cycle and has incorporated significant learning into the process already. However, a briefing meeting for assessors, held on the morning of the examinations can feel quite pressurised. In future I would schedule this meeting for the previous day to reduce this pressure.

Authenticity Indicators

