The Australian University Teaching Criteria and Standards (AUTCAS) framework is a practical, flexible guide designed to assist universities to clarify quality teaching. The framework is underpinned by carefully researched definitions and principles of quality teaching that are expressed through seven criteria. The organising principle is alignment with promotional levels. For each criterion the framework suggests standards of achievement that might be applied to each promotional level, cross-referenced to examples of indicative evidence that could be used to demonstrate achievement. The framework was developed with the intention that these criteria, standards and indicative evidence be adapted by individual universities to suit their own context.

Curtin University used the AUTCAS framework to guide the development of their own Teaching Excellence Framework

Curtin University established an ambitious teaching and learning plan in 2013 to enhance the student experience. This context provided a clear imperative for the development of teaching criteria and standards at Curtin. As part of that plan, Curtin University developed a Teaching Excellence framework to define the capabilities and skills of teaching academics and guide recruitment, development, recognition and retention processes. The Curtin Teaching Excellence Framework provides a single set of criteria that underpin all relevant reward and recognition processes, so that teaching excellence is clear and consistent with the University’s strategic goals, and supported by a comprehensive framework which can be systemically and consistently implemented. Curtin’s Teaching Excellence criteria mirror those developed in the AUTCAS project and are informed by the AUTCAS Framework.

Curtin’s case study can guide other universities developing their own teaching criteria

The AUTCAS framework provided timely and critical input that was contextualised to reflect Curtin University’s context

Teaching Excellence at Curtin is now integral to evidencing good teaching and is aligned to role statements for teaching focused, clinical teaching, teaching-research and academic positions. The teaching criteria are designed to assist in clarifying expectations for individual academic staff, particularly new and early career staff. As well as to provide guidelines for supporting academics, promotion and awards. The criteria will be used by academic staff and their supervisors as a formative development tool to identify career objectives and developmental needs. The criteria will also inform promotion, recognition and reward schemes and professional learning.

For more information about the Australian University Teaching Criteria and Standards project: www.uniteachingcriteria.edu.au