

Academy Quality Process 2024-2025: What's New in the Academy Assessment?



Academy Assessment (AA) changes for 2024-2025 are minimal. Updates to Model and Distinguished quality level thresholds and evidence requirements (implemented last year) and two strategic actions in the AA are outlined.

Model and Distinguished Thresholds

The following adjustments to thresholds were implemented last year and remain in effect for 2024-2025:

- A new Model threshold for enrollment was added – **enrolls 20 students per grade level**.
Note: The threshold is independent of the Distinguished threshold, which also includes a total enrollment component.
- Enrollment waivers were replaced with an alternative option to meet the Distinguished enrollment threshold – **enrolls 80% of school enrollment in one or more NAF academies and the academy enrolls at least 10 students per grade level**.
- A new **Program of Study** threshold was implemented that automatically populates from the Program of Study annual data collection form in ASH.
- The threshold for the Work-Based Learning (WBL) element (i.e., % of 2024 seniors who had a career preparation activity - *internship, clinical experience, apprenticeship, or mentored industry project* - that met NAFTrack Certification requirements) increased from 11% to **15% for Model** and from 21% to **25% for Distinguished**.
- A new (optional) alternative to meet the WBL element threshold was added for academies that used the WBL Participation Tracker (i.e., % of 2024 seniors who completed work-based learning activities in at least two different phases of the WBL continuum in any year) – **25% for Model** or **35% for Distinguished**.
- Quality Reviews are no longer required for academies to reach Model quality level.

Important Note: An academy must have graduated at least 10 students from the prior school year to be eligible for a Model or Distinguished quality level, even if percentage Thresholds have been met.

See [Model and Distinguished Academy Requirements](#) for detailed threshold descriptions and requirements for academies to become or maintain a Model or Distinguished quality level this school year.

AA Evidence

Evidence requirements within [NAF's Academy Assessment](#) vary depending on the quality level an academy aspires to attain. Each strategic action indicates one of the following four evidence types:

1. **Automatically populated** – automatically populated from annual data collection in ASH or NAFTrack
2. **Required for All** – all academies completing the AA must submit evidence
3. **Required for Model +** – academies striving for Model or Distinguished level must submit evidence
4. **Optional** – evidence is optional to submit for all academies

In addition, academies will have the option to use the AA **Notes feature** to submit evidence instead of uploading a document (when applicable).

AA Strategic Actions

Updates were made to the following strategic actions in [NAF's 2024-2025 Academy Assessment](#):

Strategic Action	Updated for 2024-2025
<p>4.1.b The academy's work-based learning plans intentionally focus on supporting the development of students' <u>aspirations</u>, <u>skills</u>, and <u>connections</u>. The academy's work-based learning plans support students' (select all that apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Aspirations<input type="checkbox"/> Skills<input type="checkbox"/> Connections<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	<p>This NEW strategic action will now be scored in the AA.</p>
<p>4.1.c Student voice and input are solicited and used to guide work-based learning program planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Yes<input type="radio"/> No	<p>This NEW strategic action will now be scored in the AA.</p>