



BCA Assessment Guide

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1. Guidelines for written work

Writing your assignment or exam

- Answer questions in a concise and readable form.
- Assignments should be in the form of a written report, which must follow a logical form, be in correct English, and contain relevant, well-labeled tables and figures. (Raw computer output is not acceptable.)
- You should show enough of your working so that it is possible for examiners to work out where you went wrong if your answer is not correct.
- Leave at least two blank lines after each question and, if writing equations, leave a blank line before and after each equation.
- Do not repeat the wording of the question. Simply write the number of the question.
- Do not include footnotes, margin notes, call-out boxes or the like.
- Graphs may be prepared using a graphics package or by hand (see below for hand written presentation).
- Marks may be deducted for excessive material that does not directly address the question posed.
- **Incorporate all material into one file** - this includes graphs. You may use Word or text formats.

Note: Guidelines for reporting statistical results and academic referencing can be found on the Student Resources page of the BCA website

Hand written submissions will be accepted.

When sending hand written assignments, all of the above guidelines apply, and additionally:

- Ensure writing is legible.
- Use black or blue pen, not pencil.
- Write on one side of the paper only.
- If preparing graphs by hand, each graph must use a separate sheet of ruled graph paper.

2. Guidelines for access to and submission of assignments

Academic Honesty

Students are reminded that plagiarism is not acceptable. Please ensure that you understand what plagiarism means and that you have read and understood the policy associated with the university in which you are enrolled. Submission of assignments will mean that you have agreed with the Academic Honesty Statement.

All written assignments will be submitted to similarity detection software, which will detect potential instances of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. If such matches indicate evidence of plagiarism or other forms of dishonesty, your teacher is required to report your work for further investigation.

Links to the academic honesty policies of all BCA Consortium Universities are listed below. These sites generally also contain advice about writing your own work. (See also, appendix 1, *Own work* guidelines: advice on *Use of Internet Sites*.)

Note that the Academic Honesty procedures are a compulsory requirement of all universities. In addition to the advice listed below, unit coordinators will provide unit-specific assessment instructions in unit Study Guides.

Academic honesty policies:

[The University of Adelaide](#)

[Macquarie University](#)

[Monash University](#)

[The University of Melbourne](#)

[The University of Queensland](#)

[The University of Sydney](#)

Procedure for reporting students who are suspected of plagiarising or colluding

Where a student is found to have plagiarised or colluded, or there are grounds to suspect that they have done so, the unit coordinator will immediately report the event to the program coordinator at the student's home university. The program coordinator will contact the student and commence proceedings, in accordance with the By-Laws of that university.

Downloading your assignment and sending your submission

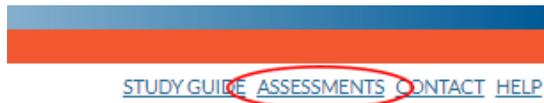
There are 2 ways to hand in assessment. The default method is submission in Canvas (eLearning). However, in the event of a system breakdown, students can send assessment items to coordinators by email.

2. The Assessment facility in Canvas unit sites – accessing, downloading and submitting your assignment

Access to assignments

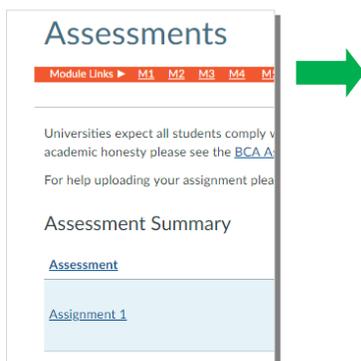
Unit coordinators will post assignments for you to download in the Assessment page of your Canvas unit sites

You can access these in the *Assessments* link under the orange banner on each page.



Downloading and submitting your assignment

In the *Assessment* page, click on the relevant assignment.



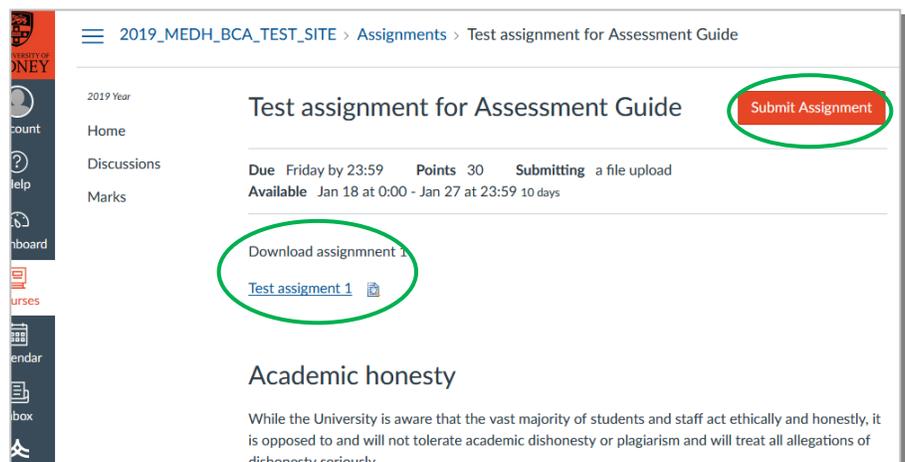
Identifying your submission

Universities stipulate student anonymity for the marking of assessment items. **You should not include your name in the body of the assignment or the file name. You can, instead, use the numerical component of your LMS username (unikey), eg psmit1234**

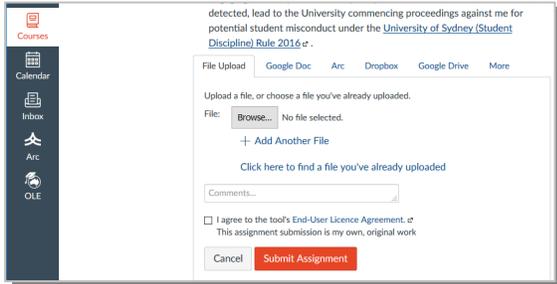
The file name should contain the relevant BCA unit code and the assignment number (eg DMC assign.1) and **numerical label**.

This will take you to the **assignment to download**.

When you are ready to submit your completed assignment, you will find the *Submit Assignment* button, on the same page.



The submission drop-box



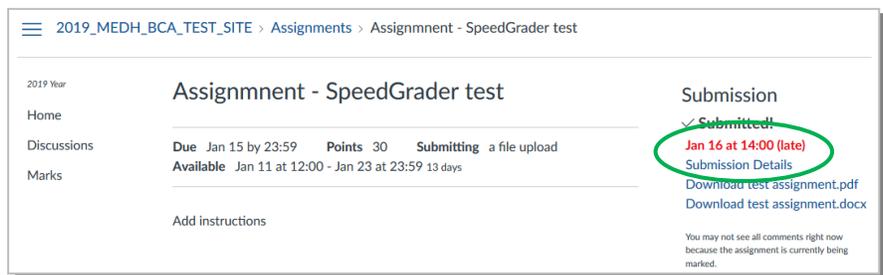
Submission will mean that you have agreed with the **Academic Honesty Statement** on the submission page.

Feedback

When coordinators have released marked assignments, feedback can be viewed in two places...

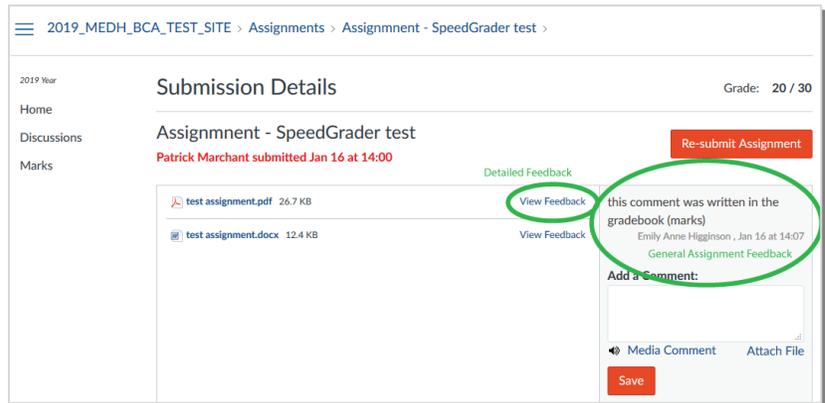
1. General feedback in the form of comments...

Go to the assignment download and submission page and click on **Submission Details**



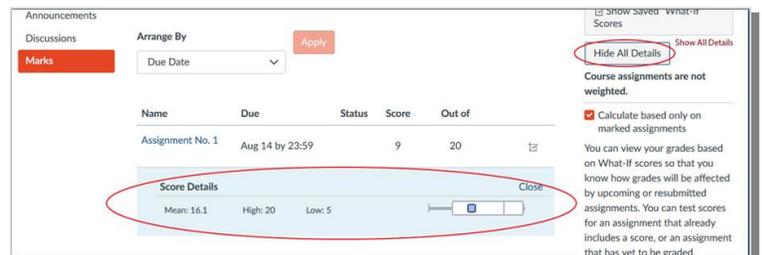
2. Marker notes placed inline with assignment...

Go to **Marks** and click on **View feedback**



Score details (assessment statistics)

To find out where your marks rank relative to overall class results, per assignment, you can go to **Score Details**, in **Marks**. Click on **Show All Details** (at which point, the **Show All Details** will be replaced by a **Hide All Details** button).



3. BCA guidelines: marked assessment, student evaluations, complaints, home university unit codes

Guidelines for:

- a. Extensions and late submissions
- b. Assessment submission and declaration of original work
- c. Student unit evaluations
- d. Complaints

a. Extensions and late submissions

For various reasons, you may sometimes experience difficulties in getting your assignments submitted on the due date. Requests for an extension for an assignment must be made in advance of the due date for that assignment. The normal grounds for an extension being granted are bereavement, personal illness or illness in a family member requiring you to exercise a significant carer role. The request must be made directly to the unit coordinator by email. The unit coordinator will reply to the request by email with the decision as to whether an extension has been granted and the new date. Extensions will normally be no longer than two days. Students will be required to apply for Special Consideration at their home university for longer extensions.

Where a student is so incapacitated by a medical or other condition that he or she is unable to request an extension in advance, medical or other certification should explicitly note the severity of the disabling condition that precluded the advance request being made.

Assessment submission

i Guidelines and advice

The unit coordinator will make the BCA Assessment Guide available to all students. This document will

include procedures for compliance with university Academic Honesty policies.

ii. Academic Honesty

Submission of assessment items certifies that they are the student's own work and that they have read the policy of the university at which they are enrolled (their home university). Links to plagiarism policy sites at all BCA consortium universities can be found on page 2 of this Guide.

Assessable exercises: the Compliance Statement is not generally required for assessable exercises.

c. Student evaluations

At the end of each semester, BCA coordinating office staff will send students directions for access to the online BCA Student Unit Evaluation survey.

All submissions will be tabulated and verbatim comments recorded. The survey will be forwarded to unit coordinators, along with a *Coordinator Response to Evaluations* form, with a request to respond to issues raised in the evaluation and an action plan for next delivery. These responses are submitted to the BCA Teaching Committee and discussed. Along with responses to the overall satisfaction rate for each survey question, unit coordinators are asked to identify key issues and, where relevant, incorporate these into action plans for future delivery.

d. Complaints mechanism

Student complaints should, in the first instance, be directed to the unit coordinator.

If the student is not satisfied with this outcome, a submission should be directed to the BCA Program Coordinator at the university at which the student is enrolled (the student's 'home' university). Program coordinators can direct the student to the complaints procedures at their home university, where required.

Confidential Reporting: mechanism for complaints about compliance with timelines outlined in Study Guides

Timelines for returning assessment items, posting solutions and responding to enquiries in Canvas are important. Where a student is not satisfied that unit coordinators are complying with the timelines outlined in the relevant Study Guide, or have not returned marked assessment items before the issue of the following item/s, he or she can direct a complaint to the BCA Coordinating Office. *Full confidentiality is guaranteed.* BCA Office personnel will log the complaint and send this to the Chair of the Teaching Committee without identifying the student. The Chair will discuss the issue with the relevant unit coordinator and address the issue as deemed necessary. The BCA office will act as a liaison point between the Chair, the student, and BCA Committee.

4. BCA and university unit codes

There is a BCA code for each unit of study (subject, course, paper), eg MBB is the BCA unit code for Mathematical Background for Biostatistics. However, if you are making an enquiry about a particular unit at your home university, you will need to use the unit code that is specific to that university, eg at Monash University, the unit code for MBB is EPM5002; at the University of Sydney it is BSTA5001.

BCA codes can be found [here](#)

Course details and unit (subject/course/paper) **codes for each Consortium University** can be found at the sites listed below:

[The University of Adelaide](#)

[Macquarie University](#)

[The University of Melbourne](#)

(non [BCA] award enrolment only)

[Monash University](#)

[The University of Queensland](#)

[The University of Sydney](#)

Appendix 1: “Own work” guidelines: advice on Use of Internet Sites

The internet contains both useful information and traps for the unwary. Unfortunately, many websites do not name the author of the textual material included. This means that the text carries little authority. As with a book or journal article, we need to know “Who wrote this?” and “Where did they get that piece of information from?”

Questions to ask about any online site:

- Is the author named?
- If so, does the site tell you about the author's credential and experience?
- Can you confirm the information from books, journals or other websites?
- Be aware that the website may be as biased as any source. Who owns/runs the website and what are they promoting?
- Has the website been updated recently? Is it out of date?

In general, research at University level is NOT based on encyclopedias or internet websites. Research essays must be based on data that is the work of acknowledged authors, and on data with verifiable origins. The advantage of

academic books and journals is that the material has been reviewed in manuscript form by experts in the field before publication, and has been tested by review in academic journals after publication. Sometimes, however, information of a high quality is posted on websites before publication or instead of publication through regular channels. If in doubt, consult your lecturer before using a website.

Referencing the WWW

Information from the WWW should be cited just like any other source. Cite website author, title (if actually published as well, publication details should be cited), and the full URL of the website, and the date you visited the web page. For example:

Landrewy, F., 'Paralympic Games and Social Integration' (first published in Miquel de Moragas and Miquel Botella, eds., *The Keys to Success*, Barcelona, UAB, 1996), <http://blues.uab.es/olympic.studies>, 14/1/97

See also [Referencing Style Guide](#)