# The Program Evaluation Standards

## *How to Assess Evaluations of Educational Programs*

## 2nd Edition

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION

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THE STANDARDS

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- **U1** Stakeholder Identification 25
- **U2** Evaluator Credibility 31
- **U3** Information Scope and Selection 37

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **U4** | Values Identification | 43 |
| | **U5** | Report Clarity | 49 |
| | **U6** | Report Timeliness and Dissemination | 53 |
| | **U7** | Evaluation Impact | 59 |
| **F** | **Feasibility Standards** | | **63** |
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| | **F2** | Political Viability | 71 |
| | **F3** | Cost Effectiveness | 77 |
| **P** | **Propriety Standards** | | **81** |
| | **P1** | Service Orientation | 83 |
| | **P2** | Formal Agreements | 87 |
| | **P3** | Rights of Human Subjects | 93 |
| | **P4** | Human Interactions | 99 |
| | **P5** | Complete and Fair Assessment | 105 |
| | **P6** | Disclosure of Findings | 109 |
| | **P7** | Conflict of Interest | 115 |
| | **P8** | Fiscal Responsibility | 121 |
| **A** | **Accuracy Standards** | | **125** |
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| | **A2** | Context Analysis | 133 |
| | **A3** | Described Purposes and Procedures | 137 |
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# Functional Table of Contents

Here the standards are reorganized in terms of the major tasks of a program evaluation. This helps the user of the evaluation to see that the Standards can be applied throughout the process of planning, conducting, and reporting the evaluation. It also illustrates that some standards typically are more applicable than others to certain evaluation tasks. However, it would be a mistake to apply only the identified standards for a given task without determining which other ones might also be relevant. All standards should be considered regarding their possible relevance to any given evaluation task.

## Deciding Whether to Evaluate

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U1** | Stakeholder Identification | 25 |
| **U2** | Evaluator Credibility | 31 |
| **U7** | Evaluation Impact | 59 |
| **F2** | Political Viability | 71 |
| **F3** | Cost Effectiveness | 77 |
| **P1** | Service Orientation | 83 |
| **P2** | Formal Agreements | 87 |
| **P7** | Conflict of Interest | 115 |
| **A1** | Program Documentation | 127 |
| **A2** | Context Analysis | 133 |
| **A12** | Metaevaluation | 185 |

## Defining the Evaluation Problem

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U1** | Stakeholder Identification | 25 |
| **P1** | Service Orientation | 83 |
| **A1** | Program Documentation | 127 |
| **A2** | Context Analysis | 133 |
| **A3** | Described Purposes and Procedures | 137 |
| **A12** | Metaevaluation | 185 |


## Designing the Evaluation

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U1** | Stakeholder Identification | 25 |
| **U3** | Information Scope and Selection | 37 |
| **U4** | Values Identification | 43 |
| **F1** | Practical Procedures | 65 |
| **P2** | Formal Agreements | 87 |
| **P5** | Complete and Fair Assessment | 105 |
| **A1** | Program Documentation | 127 |
| **A3** | Described Purposes and Procedures | 137 |
| **A4** | Defensible Information Sources | 141 |
| **A5** | Valid Information | 145 |
| **A6** | Reliable Information | 153 |
| **A8** | Analysis of Quantitative Information | 165 |
| **A9** | Analysis of Qualitative Information | 171 |
| **A10** | Justified Conclusions | 177 |
| **A11** | Impartial Reporting | 181 |
| **A12** | Metaevaluation | 185 |


## Collecting Information

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U2** | Evaluator Credibility | 31 |
| **U3** | Information Scope and Selection | 37 |
| **U4** | Values Identification | 43 |
| **F1** | Practical Procedures | 65 |
| **F2** | Political Viability | 71 |
| **P2** | Formal Agreements | 87 |
| **P3** | Rights of Human Subjects | 93 |
| **P4** | Human Interactions | 99 |
| **P5** | Complete and Fair Assessment | 105 |
| **A1** | Program Documentation | 127 |
| **A2** | Context Analysis | 133 |
| **A3** | Described Purposes and Procedures | 137 |
| **A4** | Defensible Information Sources | 141 |
| **A5** | Valid Information | 145 |

**A6** Reliable Information 153
**A7** Systematic Information 159
**A12** Metaevaluation 185

## Analyzing Information

*Most relevant standards:*

**U4** Values Identification 43
**F1** Practical Procedures 65
**A1** Program Documentation 127
**A2** Context Analysis 133
**A8** Analysis of Quantitative Information 165
**A9** Analysis of Qualitative Information 171
**A10** Justified Conclusions 177
**A12** Metaevaluation 185

## Reporting the Evaluation

*Most relevant standards:*

**U1** Stakeholder Identification 25
**U3** Information Scope and Selection 37
**U4** Values Identification 43
**U5** Report Clarity 49
**U6** Report Timeliness and Dissemination 53
**U7** Evaluation Impact 59
**P1** Service Orientation 83
**P3** Rights of Human Subjects 93
**P5** Complete and Fair Assessment 105
**P6** Disclosure of Findings 109
**A1** Program Documentation 127
**A2** Context Analysis 133
**A3** Described Purposes and Procedures 137
**A4** Defensible Information Sources 141
**A10** Justified Conclusions 177
**A11** Impartial Reporting 181
**A12** Metaevaluation 185

## Budgeting the Evaluation

*Most relevant standards:*

**U3** Information Scope and Selection 37
**F3** Cost Effectiveness 77
**P2** Formal Agreements 87
**P8** Fiscal Responsibility 121
**A1** Program Documentation 127
**A3** Described Purposes and Procedures 137
**A12** Metaevaluation 185

## Contracting for Evaluation

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U1** | Stakeholder Identification | 25 |
| **U2** | Evaluator Credibility | 31 |
| **U3** | Information Scope and Selection | 37 |
| **U6** | Report Timeliness and Dissemination | 53 |
| **F2** | Political Viability | 71 |
| **P1** | Service Orientation | 83 |
| **P2** | Formal Agreements | 87 |
| **P3** | Rights of Human Subjects | 93 |
| **P6** | Disclosure of Findings | 109 |
| **P7** | Conflict of Interest | 115 |
| **P8** | Fiscal Responsibility | 121 |
| **A1** | Program Documentation | 127 |
| **A3** | Described Purposes and Procedures | 137 |
| **A12** | Metaevaluation | 185 |


## Managing the Evaluation

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U1** | Stakeholder Identification | 25 |
| **U2** | Evaluator Credibility | 31 |
| **U6** | Report Timeliness and Dissemination | 53 |
| **F2** | Political Viability | 71 |
| **F3** | Cost Effectiveness | 77 |
| **P1** | Service Orientation | 83 |
| **P2** | Formal Agreements | 87 |
| **P3** | Rights of Human Subjects | 93 |
| **P4** | Human Interactions | 99 |
| **P7** | Conflict of Interest | 115 |
| **P8** | Fiscal Responsibility | 121 |
| **A3** | Described Purposes and Procedures | 137 |
| **A7** | Systematic Information | 159 |
| **A12** | Metaevaluation | 185 |


## Staffing the Evaluation

*Most relevant standards:*


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **U2** | Evaluator Credibility | 31 |
| **F2** | Political Viability | 71 |
| **P7** | Conflict of Interest | 115 |
| **A11** | Impartial Reporting | 181 |
| **A12** | Metaevaluation | 185 |