

1116-A5-1166 **Heather Leah Rosenblatt*** (heather.rosenblatt@wgu.edu). *Balancing the Assessment Challenges of Competency Based Education.*

Western Governors University is an online, competency based university. This means each student is self-paced and receives credit for a course after demonstrating competency without a required number of hours spent on the course. At WGU, such competency assessments are often standard multiple choice assessments with a cut score set at the level of desired skill, having students at different places in a course and having competency the only official requirement create unique assessment challenges. We have found certain key requirements to make this nontraditional model work well. I will give an expository discussion of the methods we employ to balance a student's ability to show competency through self-paced instruction while maintaining the integrity of the assessment. For example, it is crucial to have separation between evaluation and learning/instruction, a reliable way for a student to gauge his/her own prior knowledge areas and readiness to take the assessment, and a concrete process of remediation. (Received September 17, 2015)