

Seven Steps of Critical Thinking in the Assessment Process – Module IV

Regardless of the *PURPOSE* of the assessment, the *PROCESS* of assessment always involves the same seven steps of critical thinking:

1. Knowing why an assessment needs to be done—what critical questions need to be answered and what decisions will be made using the information
2. Determining the most pertinent and relevant criteria to be assessed—that is, the type, scope and depth of information that must be gathered to inform the decision
3. Implementing a variety of information-gathering strategies to access and record the needed information
4. Analyzing the information (examining in detail) and formulating hypotheses about what the information reveals
5. Testing out hypotheses to ensure a high degree of accuracy and consistency in the information
6. Synthesizing or integrating the information so it is congruent and allows accurate conclusions to be drawn
7. Using the conclusions to make a well-informed decision that achieves the desired outcome