![IMS GLOBAL Learning Consortium - Better Learning From Better Learning Technology®]

A Brief Primer on Competencies & Academic Standards Exchange (CASE) Conformance for End-User Institutions, Faculty, and Buyers of Third-Party Services and Tools

The IMS Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange (CASE) specification establishes a standard way to exchange information about learning and education competencies. CASE also transmits information about rubrics, criteria for performance tasks, which may or may not be aligned to competencies. By implementing CASE, it is possible to electronically exchange competency definitions so that applications, systems, and tools can readily access and manage this data. Having universal identifiers for education competencies makes it possible for any of these tools or applications to easily share information between the systems. These tools may include learning management systems, assessment tools, curriculum management applications, certificate and competency-based evaluation systems and any other tool, process or content that aligns to or references a competency or framework. This framework for education competencies makes it possible to define relationships within a competency framework or between two separate frameworks.

Basics: Tool Consumers, Tools Providers, and CASE Version 1.0

CASE provides a framework for provisioning and transmitting all of the following:
- **Competency Framework Documents** - original competencies or academic standards documents
- **Competency Framework Items** - statements of what the learner will know and be able to do
- **Competency Framework Associations** - relationships between entire standard sets or individual standards and courses
- **Competency Framework Rubrics** - instruments used to delineate performance expectations around a task, product or performance which may or may not be aligned to standards

IMS Global's interoperability design relies on two important roles, *service consumer* and *service provider*.

A *Service Consumer* consumes or ingests the CASE information via API, and a *Service Provider* provides or hosts the CASE information to be used in the *Service Consumer*.

Support for CASE Interoperability Features

IMS also provides a table that indicates and compares the features of CASE 1.0.

Service	Service Provider	Service Consumer
	Required = R or Optional = O	
CFPackages - This is the container for all of the data for a Competency Framework Package, for instance it may include the root CFDocument and ALL of the corresponding components i.e. the CFItems, CFAssociations and CFDefinitions.	R	O
CFDocuments - This is the source for the associated learning standards or competency definitions.	R	O
CFItems - These are the Competency Framework Items.	R	R
CFItemAssociations - These are all of the Competency Associations for the specified CFItem and the information about the CFItem itself.	R	O
CFAssociations - The set of associations between the root CFDocument and other CFDocuments and between CFItems and other CFItems.	R	O
CFConcepts - This service allows the transmission of topics associated with a learning standard or set of learning standards.	R	O
CFItemTypes - This services allows the transmission of the category for a CFItem, i.e., Domain, Standard, Sub-standard.	R	O
CFLicenses - This service includes all the legal licensing text a org may require to protect business needs	R	O
CFSubjects - A subject as used in defining a learning standard/competency, i.e., Mathematics, 1st Grade Mathematics.	R	O

CFRubrics - An entity that includes information about an instrument used to communicate expectations of quality around a task, product, or performance and/or used to delineate consistent criteria for grading.	O	O

If you have special requirements you should ensure that a supplier supports your requirements.

Requiring CASE Support in Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

When issuing an RFP for service consumers or providers that you wish to support CASE, you designate the version of CASE Interoperability that you wish to have supported, along with the features that you require. You do need to consider both service provider and consumer acquisition requirements – as these both need to support the CASE features you desire.