

# *Visitor Studies Association*

## *Evaluator Competencies for Professional Development*



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**Part I: Establish Your Professional Development Profile.**

If you are unsure about where to start in determining your professional development plan, it will be helpful to understand your strengths and weaknesses with respect to the five basic competencies considered critical in the Visitor Studies field. Use the following table to gauge your current professional strengths and those areas that you would like to strengthen. Once you have an idea of your current professional profile, go to Part II and identify ways that you can strengthen your knowledge, skills, and abilities in the various VSA competencies.

Rate yourself in terms of high, medium, or low for your knowledge of each of the competencies, professional commitment, and ethics.

<b>Competency</b>	<b>High</b> I feel extremely knowledgeable about this	<b>Medium</b> I have some knowledge but would like more.	<b>Low</b> I know very little about this	<b>None</b> Does not apply to me
A. Principles and practices of visitor studies.				
B. Principles and practices of informal learning.				
C. Research & evaluation methods and practices in the social sciences.				
D. Project planning & resource management.				
E. Professional commitment.				

**Part II: Establish a Professional Development Plan**

- Step 1: Determine your learning goals. What is it that you want to learn in each of the competency areas? You can write your goals in what ever manner are the most helpful to you. What is important is that you do write them down.
- Step 2: What is your time frame to accomplish your goals? Again, you can write this as specifically as will be most helpful to you but do set a time goal in writing.
- Step 3: A variety of learning alternatives are presented to help you build strength in each of the competencies. Identify the method/s that will work best for you and write those in the Personal Plan column. This is a menu of options, it is not a check list and so it is not necessary to develop a personal plan for all of the competency categories. Also, in some cases, you can be very specific, for example, if you know of courses, readings, or experiences that are offered regularly and you can determine when you will be able to participate. In other cases, such as VSA workshops, you have to keep on the lookout for when such workshops may be offered. Your level of accomplishment is up to you. You can refer to the Reviewer’s Rubrics at the end to get an idea of the level of knowledge considered “excellent” and “competent” for each of the competencies, should a registration program is implemented.









