

Assessor Standards

The purpose of these standards are to assist with identifying what an assessor should know when they are applying for and maintaining a specific assessor license.

In addition to education, the hope is that the standards will be used in a variety of ways. Ideally, assessors will find ways to use these standards to their advantage, such as a tool for new hires or a tool for staff development.

Three license levels are included in the standards

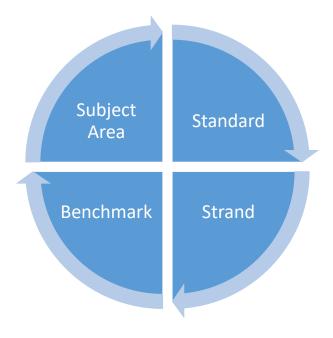
- 1. CMA
- 2. AMA
- 3. SAMA

Within the subject areas, there are multiple strands and benchmarks.

Stakeholders & How They Will Use These

- State Board of Assessors licensure and continuing education approval requests, SAMA interview questions, and identifying requirements for licensure levels.
- DOR assessor courses and trainings & new assessor appointments.
- MAAO course development, course content reviews, writing objectives and much more.
- County and City Assessors interview questions, staff development, new employee training, promotions, budget requests, etc...

Minnesota Assessor Licensure Standards



Subject Area – refers to a defined domain of knowledge and skill in an academic program. Assessors should have knowledge and skill in this defined subject area to execute their roles and responsibilities well. These set of standards are focused on the subject area of assessment skills.

Standard – is the **learning goal(s)** for what assessors should know and be able to do at each licensure level. This is the "what" for the learner, the licensure, the appointer, and the content developer. Within each subject area there are different standards.

Strand - is a consistent thread running through a standard that relates back to the subject area. This is identified as the "how" for the learner, the licensure, the appointer, and the content developer. Each **standard** has multiple **strands** that all relate back to the **subject area**.

Benchmark – is the measurable tool to verify whether the strand and standard have been met. This tool is essentially the final step in the process. A benchmark allows the learner, the licensure, the appointer, and the content developer to know if the assessor has met the expectation(s) and it assists with identifying areas for improvement. This is also referred to as an objective.

Standard 1: Appraisal Theory – the assessor can recognize and apply practices and principles that govern appraisal.

Code	Strand	Benchmark
1.A.1	A. Ability to identify market area	1. Assessor recognizes distinct market features that enable market stratification.
1.A.2	A. Ability to identify market area	2. Assessor can analyze historical data to recognize trends in market area.
1.A.3	A. Ability to identify market area	3. Assessor understands the definition and dynamics of a neighborhood.
1.A.4	A. Ability to identity market area	4. Assessor can identify the life cycle stage of the neighborhood.
1.A.5	A. Ability to identity market area	The assessor can identify the 7 steps in the appraisal process: Identify the problem, Determine the scope of work, Collect the data, Analyze the data, Estimate the land value, Form an opinion of value, Prepare an appraisal report.
1.B.1	B. Ability to justify the final opinion of value	1. Assessor can determine which approaches to value are most pertinent to the subject property.
1.B.2	B. Ability to justify the final opinion of value	2. Assessor can logically conclude a final opinion of value based on the relevance of each approach to value considered, and without bias.
1.C.1	C. Ability to explain objective adjustments based on qualitative and quantitative data	Assessor understands units of comparison and their use in adjusting comparable properties.
1.C.2	C. Ability to explain objective adjustments based on qualitative and quantitative data	2. Assessor can explain how market evidence derived from sales data can b.e used to adjust sales prices to a value indication
1.D.1	D. Demonstrate knowledge of the types of instruments used to transfer property interests	1. Assessor is familiar with a deed and the different types.
1.D.2	D. Demonstrate knowledge of the types of instruments used to transfer property interests	2. Assessor is familiar with a contract and its essential elements.
1.D.3	D. Demonstrate knowledge of the types of instruments used to transfer property interests	3. Assessor can distinguish real estate from real property.
1.D.4 AMA	D. Demonstrate knowledge of the types of instruments used to transfer property interests	4. Assessor is familiar with leases, their structure and the different types.
1.D.5 AMA	D. Demonstrate knowledge of the types of instruments used to transfer property interests	5. Assessor understands leasehold interests and the various forms it can take.
1.E.1	E. Understand the definition of market value	1. Assessor is familiar with the statutory definition of market value for tax purposes (272.03, subd. 8).
1.E.2	E. Understand the definition of market value	2. Assessor is familiar with the definition of market value as determined by the Appraisal Institute and IAAO.

1.F.1	F. Ability to explain market	1. Assessor understands supply and demand and its
	economics fundamentals	effect on value and able to communicate it to the
		community in which they serve.
1.F.2	F. Ability to explain market	2. Assessor understands the principle of substitution
	economics fundamentals	and its relevance to value conclusions and able to
		communicate it to the community in which they
		serve.
1.G.1	G. Highest and Best Use	1. Assessor understands the concept of highest and
		best use and its impact on value.
1.G.2	G. Highest and Best Use	2. Assessor knows and understands the 4 tests for
		highest and best use.
1.G.3	G. Highest and Best Use	3. Assessor can successfully complete a highest and
		best use analysis and apply the findings to an
		appraisal assignment without bias.
1.H.1	H. Legal Descriptions	Assessor can read a legal description and
		successfully sketch the plot described.
1.H.2	H. Legal Descriptions	2. Assessor can determine land size and unit of
		comparison from a legal description.
1.1.1	I. Bundle of Rights	1. Assessor is familiar with the rights associated with
		property ownership (possession, control, exclusion,
		enjoyment, and disposition).
1.1.2	I. Bundle of Rights	2. Assessor understands these rights can be
		separated and this separation can impact value.
1.J.1	J. Sales Comparison Approach	1. Assessor understands the sales comparison
		approach is based on the principle of substitution.
1.J.2	J. Sales Comparison Approach	2. Assessor can identify and select comparable
		properties for analysis without bias.
1.J.3	J. Sales Comparison Approach	3. Assessor can make adjustments to comparable
		sales based on market-derived, unbiased evidence.
1.J.4	J. Sales Comparison Approach	4. Assessor can arrive at a final reconciled value
		estimate based on the analysis of comparable sales
		and explain their findings to the market in which
		they serve.
1.K.1	K. Ability to perform all	Assessor can accurately calculate gross potential
	necessary calculations to	income using market data.
1 1/ 2	perform the income approach	2. A
1.K.2	K. Ability to perform all	2. Assessor can identify expenses that are allowable
	necessary calculations to	in an operating statement and calculate a net
1.K.3	perform the income approach	operating income. 3. Assessor is able to use information and data to
1.1.3	K. Ability to perform all necessary calculations to	
	perform the income approach	determine an appropriate capitalization rate.
1.K.4	K. Ability to perform all	4. Assessor can identify vacancy and collection loss
1.K.4 AMA	necessary calculations to	in the market and apply to the gross potential
	perform the income approach	income.
1.K.5	K. Ability to perform all	5. Assessor understands the concept of a 'loaded'
AMA	necessary calculations to	tax rate and when that is appropriate to use.
AIVIA	perform the income approach	tus rate and when that is appropriate to use.
	perjorni die income approach	

1.K.6	K. Ability to perform all	6. Assessor can calculate an effective tax rate and	
AMA	necessary calculations to	explain their findings to the market in which they	
	perform the income approach	serve.	
1.L.1	L. Demonstrate the ability to use	1. Assessor understands the steps in the cost	
	cost approach	approach.	
1.L.2	L. Demonstrate the ability to use	2. Assessor understands the definitions for	
	cost approach	replacement and reproduction cost.	
1.L.3	L. Demonstrate the ability to use 3. Assessor can correctly estimate physical		
	cost approach	depreciation (curable and incurable).	
1.L.4	L. Demonstrate the ability to use	4. Assessor can correctly estimate functional	
	cost approach	obsolescence (curable and incurable).	
1.L.5	L. Demonstrate the ability to use	5. Assessor can correctly estimate economic	
	cost approach	obsolescence and explain their findings to the	
		market in which they serve.	
1.M.1	M. An understanding of the	1. The assessor can correctly identify the problem	
	steps in the appraisal process	and the scope of work.	
1.M.2	M. An understanding of the	The assessor understands and applies the 7 steps in	
SAMA	steps in the appraisal process	the appraisal process without bias (Identify the	
		problem, Determine the scope of work, Collect the	
		data, Analyze the data, Estimate the land value,	
		Form an opinion of value, Prepare an appraisal	
1.N.1	N. An understanding of Real	report). 1. The assessor understands the four value	
1.11.1	Property Characteristics as it	characteristics: Demand, Utility, Scarcity and	
	relates to real estate appraisal	Transferability.	
1.N.2	N. An understanding of Real	The assessor understands the three unique	
1.14.2	Property Characteristics as it	physical characteristics of land that makes it	
	relates to real estate appraisal	valuable: Uniqueness, Immobility and	
	полития полития при полития при полития	Indestructability.	
1.0.1	O. Assessor has an	1. Assessor can identify give examples of the four	
	understanding of the forces that	forces that influence real estate value: physical,	
	influence real estate value	economic, governmental and social.	
1.P.1	P. Assessor has an	1. Assessor can apply commonly-accepted standards	
	understanding of common	to the development of an appraisal assignment	
	appraisal standards and how	without bias.	
	they govern mass appraisal		
1.P.2	P. Assessor has an	2.Assessor can apply commonly-accepted standards	
	understanding of common	to the credibility of an assignment without bias.	
	appraisal standards and how		
	they govern mass appraisal		
1.P.3	P. Assessor has an	3. Assessor can apply commonly-accepted standards	
	understanding of common	to a report to ensure it is not misleading and is	
	appraisal standards and how	without bias.	
	they govern mass appraisal		

Standard 2: Assessment Practices - The assessor must understand and explain the process of assessment review and appeal.

Code	Strand	Benchmark
2.A.1	A. Apply homestead law to specific situations	1. Assessor understands the basic requirements for homestead status, can apply them without bias, and can explain the requirements to the market they serve.
2.A.2	A. Apply homestead law to specific situations	2. Assessor can calculate the homestead tax benefit.
2.A.3	A. Apply homestead law to specific situations	3. Assessor understands the qualifications required for relative homestead status.
2.A.4	A. Apply homestead law to specific situations	4. Assessor understands the qualifications required for special agricultural homestead, and actively farming homestead status.
2.B.1	B. Apply classification law to specific situations	Assessor is familiar with the various statutory classes of property in Minnesota.
2.B.2	B. Apply classification law to specific situations	2. Assessor can determine, based on the use of a property, which property tax classification it falls under without bias.
2.B.3	B. Apply classification law to specific situations	3. Assessor understands the tax implications inherent with each property class (i.e., how classifications impact property taxes and tax distribution).
2.B.4	B. Apply classification law to specific situations	4. Assessor understands and can explain how a property may be eligible for more than one class (split class).
2.C.1	C. Knowledge of the assessment calendar and terms associated with the calendar	Assessor knows where to access information concerning important dates in the assessment cycle.
2.C.2	C. Knowledge of the assessment calendar and terms associated with the calendar	2. Assessor is familiar with significant dates related to the annual assessment cycle.
2.D.1	D. Demonstrate knowledge of governmental programs	Assessor knows about the various property tax programs and resources regarding the programs.
2.D.2	D. Demonstrate knowledge of governmental programs	2. Assessor is aware of the eligibility requirements for various property tax programs.
2.D.3	D. Demonstrate knowledge of governmental programs	3. Assessor can apply the eligibility requirements to real life situations and independently determine eligibility and share program knowledge with the community they serve.
2.D.4	D. Demonstrate knowledge of governmental programs	4. Assessor can explain the benefits and possible consequences of enrollment in the various property tax programs and can explain to the community they serve.
2.E.1	E. Ability to use statutes and the PTX administrators manual	Assessor understands statutory coding (statute numbers).

2.E.2	E. Ability to use statutes and the PTX administrators manual	2. Assessor can locate and search the PTX Administrators manual.	
2.F.1	F. Tax Court Administration	1. Assessor understands requirements for petitioner to file an appeal.	
2.F.2 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	2. Assessor can manage tax court timelines, and scheduling.	
2.F.3 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	3. Assessor can determine when a De Novo appraisal may be necessary.	
2.F.4 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	4. Assessor understands the roles of various participants in an appeal.	
2.F.5 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	5.Assessor can research past Tax Court decisions.	
2.F.6 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	6. Assessor can effectively negotiate on behalf of the county.	
2.F.7 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	7. Assessor can effectively allocate resources toward the resolution of an appeal.	
2.F.8 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	8. Assessor can provide expert testimony at trial.	
2.F.9 AMA	F. Tax Court Administration	9. Assessor understands the implications of settlements and decisions for future assessments.	
2.G.1	G. Demonstrate knowledge of property exemption laws and identify exempt properties	1. Assessor understands the basic requirements for exemption, ownership, use, and necessity of ownership.	
2.G.2 AMA	G. Demonstrate knowledge of property exemption laws and identify exempt properties	2. Assessor is familiar with the various statutory and constitutional opportunities for exemption.	
2.G.3 AMA	G. Demonstrate knowledge of property exemption laws and identify exempt properties	3. Assessor is able to recognize the requirements that need to be met in order to qualify as a purely public charity.	
2.H.1	H. Demonstrate ability to calculate taxes	1. Assessor understands basic property tax calculation procedures, including calculating a net tax capacity, and can explain it to the community they serve.	
2.H.2	H. Demonstrate ability to calculate taxes	Assessor can calculate various credits and exclusions associated with property tax.	
2.H.3	H. Demonstrate ability to calculate taxes	3. Assessor understands and can demonstrate the impact changes in levies and values can have on tax burdens.	
2.I.1	I. Knowledge of data privacy laws	Assessor understands the importance of data privacy and which types of data are considered private.	
2.1.2	I. Knowledge of data privacy laws	2. Assessor understands the methods used to protect private data.	

2.J.1	J. Understanding of the local	1. Assessor understands the purpose and scope of
	and county board of appeal	boards of appeal, as well as limitations.
	laws and procedures	
2.J.2	J. Understanding of the local	2. Assessor understands their role in the appeals
	and county board of appeal	process as well as the powers entrusted to the local
	laws and procedures	boards.
2.J.3	J. Understanding of the local	3. Assessor understands the time frame for boards of
AMA	and county board of appeal	appeal and their responsibility in scheduling.
	laws and procedures	
2.K.1	K. Understands the utility of	1. Understands how the 9-month study is used.
	the sales ratio study as it	
	relates to both tax court and	
	the assessment process	
2.K.2	K. Understands the utility of	2. Understands how the 12-month study is used.
	the sales ratio study as it	
	relates to both tax court and	
	the assessment process	
2.K.3	K. Understands the utility of the	3. Understands how the 24-month study is used.
AMA	sales ratio study as it relates to	
	both tax court and the	
	assessment process	
2.L.1	L. Sales Verifications	1. Assessor understands the importance of good sales
		data in determining values.
2.L.2	L. Sales Verifications	2. Assessor knows the best methods and sources to
		utilize in sales verification and is able to state why
		they use the method they use.
2.M.1	M. Quintile Review	1. Assessor can follow a quintile plan to complete a
		quintile reassessment.
2.M.2	M. Quintile Review	2. Assessor can create a quintile plan for individual
		districts.
2.M.3	M. Quintile Review	3. Assessor can create a plan for an entire County or
AMA		City.
2.M.4	M. Quintile Review	4. Assessor can monitor progress of others conducting
AMA		quintile reassessments.
2.M.5	M. Quintile Review	5. Assessor can respond to shortcomings in quintile
AMA		progress and take action to ensure all reassessments
		are completed.

Standard 3: Appraisal Practices – The assessor must understand and explain the roles and duties of an assessor that relates to "field work".

Code	Strand	Benchmark	
3.A.1	A. Knowledge of construction terms, trends, components of buildings etc.	Assessor can recognize construction terminology to determine proper cost schedules.	
3.A.2	A. Knowledge of construction terms, trends, components of buildings etc.	2. Assessor can recognize components of a building to determine quality of construction.	
3.A.3 AMA	A. Knowledge of construction terms, trends, components of buildings etc.	3. Assessor can translate construction trends into cost schedules.	
3.B.1	B. Understanding of what is important to include when taking photos of a property for all property types	1. Assessor can identify how property photos can be used to enhance the review process and explain this to the community they serve.	
3.C.1	D. Ability to read blueprints	Assessor can successfully identify the dimensions on a blueprint to sketch the building in a CAMA system.	
3.C.2 AMA	D. Ability to read blueprints	2. Assessor can identify room count using the blueprint.	
3.C.3 AMA	D. Ability to read blueprints	3. Assessor can identify the architectural scale and successfully measure a line.	
3.C.4 AMA	D. Ability to read blueprints	4. Assessor is able to recognize doors, windows and stairs depicted in a blueprint.	
3.D.1	E. Demonstrate their capability to read different mapping software	1. Assessor understands how mapping can be used to enhance the review process.	
3.D.2	E. Demonstrate their capability to read different mapping software	2. Assessor can locate a property utilizing mapping software.	
3.D.3	E. Demonstrate their capability to read different mapping software	3. Assessor can identify structures and landmarks utilizing mapping software.	
3.E.1	F. Demonstrate ability to perform a field review on all property types	Assessor can determine property type upon physical inspection.	
3.E.2	F. Demonstrate ability to perform a field review on all property types	2. Assessor identifies the necessary tools to complete the field review.	
3.E.3	F. Demonstrate ability to perform a field review on all property types	3. Upon identifying the property type, the assessor can recognize and describe the data needed to complete the review.	
3.F.1	G. Demonstrates ability to make subjective opinions	Assessor can independently determine quality for land or improvements.	

3.F.2	G. Demonstrates ability to make subjective opinions	2. Assessor can independently determine condition of improvements under review.
3.F.3	G. Demonstrates ability to make subjective opinions	3. Understands and demonstrates when to utilize a manual to promote consistency in subjective opinions
3.F.4	G. Demonstrates ability to make subjective opinions	4. Understands and demonstrates when in the appraisal process a subjective change can be made and best practices when making that change.

Standard 4: Mass Appraisal – The assessor must understand, explain, and administer the uniform valuation of a universe of properties

Code	Strand	Benchmark
4.A.1	A. Ability to calculate statistics	Assessor can successfully calculate a sales ratio and identify the median.
4.A.2	A. Ability to calculate statistics	2. Assessor understands the methodology behind the calculation of the coefficient of dispersal, price-related differential, and price-related bias (COD, PRD, and PRB).
4.A.3	A. Ability to calculate statistics	3. Assessor understands the methodology behind a market condition adjustment and the concept of a forward market condition trend.
4.A.4 AMA	A. Ability to calculate statistics	4. Assessor can utilize all calculation tools (such as Mcast) to assist in statistical analysis.
4.A.5 AMA	A. Ability to calculate statistics	5. Assessor is able to select the most appropriate statistical method without bias to explain the data.
4.B.1	B. Ability to identify the actions needed as a result of a statistical calculation	Assessor is aware of State ratio guidelines and best practices.
4.B.2	B. Ability to identify the actions needed as a result of a statistical calculation	2. Assessor can identify and interpret the PRD, PRB, and COD.
4.C.1 AMA	C. Ability to use the CAMA software as necessary.	Assessor is able to model the identified action and apply equitably.
4.C.2 AMA	C. Ability to use the CAMA software as necessary.	2. Assessor is able to identify what data should be used for stratification and neighborhood analysis.
4.D.1 AMA	D. Ability to explain multiple regression analysis.	1. Assessor recognizes and can explain the relationships between known available data to predict market value.
4.D.2 AMA	D. Ability to explain multiple regression analysis.	Assessor understands and can explain the data utilized in multiple regression analysis.
4.D.3 AMA	D. Ability to explain multiple regression analysis.	3. Assessor recognizes and can explain how the equation "models" the buyer decision-making process.
4.E.1	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal skills including rate development	Assessor understands the uses of the IRV (value = income/rate) and VIF formulas.
4.E.2	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal skills including rate development	2. Assessor is able to identify the necessary income and expense data needed to develop an income valuation model.
4.E.3	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal skills including rate development	3. Assessor can correctly calculate a gross rent multiplier.
4.E.4	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal skills including rate development	4. Assessor can correctly calculate a gross income multiplier.

4.E.5	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal	5. Assessor can identify property characteristics that	
SAMA	skills including rate development	affect value to use in an appraisal model.	
4.E.6	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal	6. Demonstrate mass appraisal skills including rate	
SAMA	skills including rate development	development.	
4.E.7	E. Demonstrate mass appraisal	7. Assessor can calibrate the model over time to reflect	
SAMA	skills including rate development	changing market conditions.	
4.F.1	F. Understand the concept of time	1. Assessor can correctly calculate a time trend.	
AMA	trends in sales analysis		
4.F.2	F. Understand the concept of time	2. Assessor can correctly apply a time trend to a sale.	
AMA	trends in sales analysis		
4.F.3	F. Understand the concept of time	3. Assessor understands the concept of a time	
AMA	trends in sales analysis	adjustment and how it affects the sales ratio.	
4.F.4	F. Understand the concept of time	4. Assessor understands the methodology behind a	
SAMA	trends in sales analysis	market condition adjustment and the concept of a	
		forward market condition trend.	
4.G.1	G. Understands the difference	1. Assessor is able to communicate the core	
	between mass and fee appraisal	differences between a single property appraisal and	
		mass appraisal.	
4.H.1	H. Has the ability to understand	1. The standards apply to the development of a mass	
	mass appraisal is governed by	appraisal assignment.	
	standards meant to maintain a high		
	level of professional practice.		
4.H.2	H. Has the ability to understand	2. The standards apply to the credibility of the mass	
	mass appraisal is governed by	appraisal assignment.	
	standards meant to maintain a high		
4112	level of professional practice.	2.71	
4.H.3	H. Has the ability to understand	3. The standards apply to a mass appraisal written	
	mass appraisal is governed by	report to ensure it not be misleading.	
	standards meant to maintain a high		
	level of professional practice.		

Standard 5: Management and Leadership (FOR SAMA ONLY) – The assessor must demonstrate good management and leadership skills

Code	Strand	Benchmark
5.A.1 SAMA	A. Managing Work	Organization/time management/planning skills to meet critical deadlines.
5.A.2 SAMA	A. Managing Work	 Innovation, project management, and/or strategic planning skills to innovate to new work environments and opportunities.
5.A.3 SAMA	A. Managing Work	Goal-setting abilities to continue to grow and to foster growth in others.
5.A.4 SAMA	A. Managing Work	Change management skills to undertake new work, or to implement new laws or other requirements.
5.A.5 SAMA	A. Managing Work	Ability to identify areas of improvement or to add efficiencies to work.
5.A.6 SAMA	A. Managing Work	Ability to set and update standards and expectations of work.
5.B.1 SAMA	B. Managing Staff	Ability to handle employee performance and development.
5.B.2 SAMA	B. Managing Staff	2. Ability to actively listen.
5.B.3 SAMA	B. Managing Staff	Ability to delegate responsibilities and manage workloads of staff.
5.C.1 SAMA	C. Managing Relations	 Communications skills to discuss complex topics in a sometimes-charged atmosphere.
5.C.2 SAMA	C. Managing Relations	Conflict management skills to work through employee relations and customer service.
5.C.3 SAMA	C. Managing Relations	 Ability to communicate objective data for multiple purposes including appeals, sales ratio studies, County Board questions, etc.
5.C.4 SAMA	C. Managing Relations	Ability to understand and explain the impacts of diversity and inclusion in the property tax system.
5.C.5 SAMA	C. Managing Relations	 Ability to describe the positive features of the property tax - including in comparison to other tax types - to multiple audiences like taxpayers, local boards, and new staff.