

The National Assessment Center for Higher Education (Ceneval) is a non-profit organization established in 1994 and committed to promote the quality of education in Mexico through the external assessment of the learning outcomes achieved by students. The Center offers more than 240 instruments to assess knowledge and skills at the different levels of education, formal and informal. Every year, three million people take a test from Ceneval. Two main measurement instruments are used to evaluate students after college: 1) The EXANI-III evaluates fundamental skills and competencies of those who have completed College and wish to continue for graduate studies. It is an entry test. 2) The EGEL examinations are designed to assess the required knowledge expected from students upon completion of their university first degree studies. The EGEL examinations are objective, multiple choice tests, centered on domain-specific knowledge and skills that are considered essential and common to all HEI curricula in the specific subject. Of National scope, the EGEL are specialized by career and are offered openly as a service to any HEI that wishes to participate. In 2010 almost 100,000 college students will take one of the 33 EGEL in operation. This number represents one third of the students expected to effectively graduate in Mexico this year.

One of the major strengths of the EGEL is the broad participation of academics and institutions in their making. More than 2,000 external specialists contribute to the work of Ceneval. Academics, professionals and educational authorities across the country enrich the validity and legitimacy of the instruments. Each of the 33 tests has a Technical Council and various academic committees to support it. Between 2009 and 2010, more than 30,000 professionals answered the surveys that helped us to delineate the domain and identify the specific contents for the new generation of instruments.