

Requirements at the Heart

Requirements, analysis models, acceptance criteria, and test cases work together to define and verify a solution. Each serves a different purpose, but they are closely connected. Requirements are at the heart of that work, capturing what the solution needs to achieve and forming the basis for the acceptance criteria and testing used to verify it.

- Requirements are, as IIBA defines them, “a usable representation of a need.” They can be expressed in many formats.
- Analysis models help clarify and represent requirements by exploring business rules, data, processes, interfaces, and other aspects of the solution. A model may serve as the requirement itself or supplement another representation.
- Acceptance criteria are derived from requirements and define the conditions that must be met for the solution to be accepted.
- Test cases may be derived from requirements and/or acceptance criteria. They specify the inputs, steps, and expected results used to verify solution behavior.

