

# Building metric definitions

Metric definition is the attribute of a metric suite with the «MetricDefinition» stereotype applied.

To build a metric definition

1. Select the shape of a metric suite.
2. Click the **Create Element** button on the shape, and then select **Metric Definition**. An attribute with the «MetricDefinition» stereotype is created.



3. Type its name directly on the shape and then click a free space on the diagram.



4. Select the attribute on the shape and click .
5. Select the type of the result values that should be calculated according to the formula specified in a metric definition.



This step is mandatory. A metric definition must have a result type, e.g., Real or Integer.

6. Press **Enter** to open the Specification window of the metric definition.
7. Click the cell of the **Default Value** property value. ... and ... appear on the cell.
8. Click ... and select **Value Specification > Opaque Expression**.
9. Click the cell of the **Default Value** property value again, and then click .... The **Default Value** dialog opens.
10. From the **Language** drop-down list, select a language.



To build a structured expression, select **StructuredExpression**.

11. In the **Body** box, specify the formula for the metric definition. For more information about building structured expressions, see [Specifying criteria for querying model](#).
12. Click **OK** and then click **Close** in the Specification window.

The metric definition is specified.



If your metric suite is created using the *BaseMetricSuite*, it already has the metric definition for date tracking.

One metric definition can refer to another metric definition of either the same metric suite or a more general one (in case there is a generalization relationship between these metric suites).

## Related pages

- [Creating Metric Suites](#)
  - [Adding a new metric suite to your model](#)
  - [Specifying the target for a metric suite](#)
  - [Specifying parameter definitions](#)
  - [How to...](#)