Assessment of Learning
“How do you know if learning has taken place?”

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For My Understanding...Your Courses...A Quick Check!

Do you teach a small or a large class?

Do you decide on course and learning objectives?

Do you set the assignments, examinations, etc?
Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- Setting the scene
- Defining assessment and evaluation
- Quality assessment
- The Cs
- Considerations
- Presentation test
Our University...A Quick Check!

Assessment practices vary across campus...

**Formative**...Informs students and instructors about understanding, normally regarded as assessment for learning

**Summative**...Normally both assessment for and of learning

Assessment methods are used to evaluate learning and provide a credit/no credit or letter grade
Confusing Assessment and Evaluation

Assessment... *is the journey*

Evaluation... *is the destination*

Assessment involves the gathering of evidence over a period of time to measure learning and understanding... such as assignments, journals, tests, etc.

Evaluation occurs when a mark or grade is assigned after the completion of tasks, tests, quizzes, or learning activities

Schiemer, 2000
Quality Assessment Involves...

Learning activities that enable students to reveal what they know and can do

Ways to provide students with information about their performance to guide for improvement

Learning experiences as well as an evaluation device
What students learn can depend as much on your methods of assessment and evaluation as on your teaching.

What is measured is often what ends up being valued.

Therefore…check assessment methods against course and learning objectives.

McKeachie and Svinicki, 2006
Backwards Design...Consider your own Course

Identify the key learning objectives

What are truly the best ways to assess this learning?

Are the present methods of assessment appropriate?

If you drew a concept map of your course, would your assessment methods match-up with the learning objectives?
Course Concept Map...Identification of Course Objectives

Learning Objective

Learning Objective

Course

Learning Objective

Learning Objective

Learning Objective
Course Concept Map...Identification of Course Objectives
Course Content
Identify learning goals and objectives?
What needs to be taught?

Student

Instruction
What and how are students being taught?
What might need to be changed?

Assessment
What do the students know?
What do they not know?
Why?
Some Practical Advice...

Remember your Cs!

Clearly Communicated Criteria
Comprehensive
Collaborative
Continuous
Clearly Communicated Criteria

“I had no idea what to expect or where I went wrong…”

Communicate what you intend to assess…
Explain your marking scheme…
Prepare students with example questions, model answers, etc…
Provide comments and suggestions that outline strengths, weaknesses, areas for improvement…
Comprehensive

“Is this important, will we need to remember it?”

Assignment and examination content should match course learning outcomes…

Address learning that occurs throughout the course…

Assess course content and your own teaching…

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Collaborative

“I can’t believe the mark the instructor gave me!”

Encourage the students to become responsible for their own learning...

Develop in students an ownership of their work...

Ensure that students have a clear awareness of course outcomes and how these will be assessed...

www.kaytrotter.com
Can we forget everything that we learned prior to the mid-term?”

Try not to assume learning, always check for understanding…

Ask questions continually…

Ask students to apply their learning…

Understand that assignments and/or examinations that are for many marks are stressful…

Continuous
Important but can be Forgotten...

Whatever methods of assessment we choose they must be...

Appropriate
Fair
Honest
Examples of Things to Consider...

Provide an ungraded quiz early in the course...

Give examples of your questions throughout the course...also provide model answers!

To reduce stress, weight early assessments quite low...

Provide admission/exit tickets...

What should determine your assessment strategies?

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Ultimately...

- Establish Learning Outcomes and Goals
- Provide Learning Opportunities
- Summative Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning
- Formative Assessment of Student Learning
- Analyze Student and Instructor Performance for Future Improvement
Thank you

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Questions?