

Volume 1 | Issue 4
September, 2021

SUCCESSMENT

CONCORD UNIVERSITY'S
ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

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Month*

Upcoming

The goal of this newsletter is to promote better awareness and understanding of assessment, and to keep Concord faculty, staff, and students informed on important and relevant information related to assessment and accountability.

Assessment Tip of the Month

Aligning assessment, students learning objectives, and instructional strategies.

Assessments should reveal how well students have learned what we want them to learn while instruction ensures that they learn it. For this to occur, assessments, learning objectives, and instructional strategies need to be closely aligned so that they reinforce one another.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Contact

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To ensure that these three components of your course are aligned, ask yourself the following questions:

- Learning objectives: What do I want students to know how to do when they leave this course?
- Assessments: What kinds of tasks will reveal whether students have achieved the learning objectives I have identified?
- Instructional strategies: What kinds of activities in and out of class will reinforce my learning objectives and prepare students for assessments?

One tool that instructors can use to make sure their course is well-aligned is an alignment matrix. In an alignment matrix, the instructor lists each assignment and assessment that links to each learning objective. Alignment between assessments and desired learning outcomes is foundational if your assessments are to be valid. By aligning your assessments to your learning outcomes you are making sure you are assessing what you want to assess.

Sources

Fink, L. D. (2013). *Creating significant learning experiences, revised and updated: an integrated approach to designing college courses*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

“Whys and Hows of Assessment”, Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation, Carnegie Mellon University. Retrieved 9/22/2021
<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/assessment/basics/alignment.html>

Upcoming

CTL Workshop - What to do with Assessment Data/Evidence

Wednesday, Sept. 29 @ 1pm/Thursday, Sept. 30 @ 2pm

The purpose of this workshop is to share ideas and best practices on how to use assessment data to improve classroom instruction, support and increase student learning, make curriculum changes, etc.