Foundations for Assessing Student Learning

The Goals of this Module

Connect assessment concepts and theories to your teaching context.
Describe and explain assessment categories and types.
Identify the categories and types of assessments you use in your teaching.

Module 1a: Basic Concepts
Why assess student learning?

- To obtain evidence of student progress
- To guide instruction and choice of pedagogical strategies
- To determine the effectiveness of our teaching

Purpose of Assessment in the Higher Education Academic Program

To assess individual progress while building skilled, knowledgeable, creative, and thoughtful individuals.

Basic assessment concepts: Separate but related

**Assessment** - this generally refers to the process of gathering information about where the student has been, where the student is now, or where the student should be relevant to academic expectations.

**Measurement** - the use of a systematic methodology to observe behaviors in order to represent the magnitude of performance achievement, task completion, and concept attainment.

**Evaluation** - Evaluation is the comparison of assessment information in relation to a standard or set of pre-established criteria for the purpose of determining the extent to which the standard or criteria have been met.
Teaching and Learning

Fundamental questions

What do you expect students to know and be able to do at the end of your course(s)?

How do you know if your students have learned this?

Pause to Think

* Describe at least three ways that you know that your students have learned what you planned for them to learn.
* Go on to Module PowerPoint 1b when you are done.