*Please share with your faculty:* ***The importance of aligning student learning objectives, learning opportunities, and methods of assessment.***

The purpose of an assessment is to measure the extent to which key student learning objectives are being met. When students complain that an assessment is unfair, or not what they had prepared for, this often can indicate that the assessment was not reflective of what they believed to be the objective of the lesson, or the learning experiences they were familiar with. It is therefore essential for assessments to be aligned with student learning objectives and learning opportunities. For example, if your objective is for students to be able to critically evaluate information, then students must be presented with learning opportunities to practice critically evaluating information. Similarly, the assessment also needs to measure students’ ability to critically evaluate information. For this reason, a test that measures basic recall of factual information would not be a valid measure of this objective. Creating an **assessment blueprint** (also called a table of specifications) can serve as a useful way to ensure that an assessment is measuring targeted student learning objectives. An assessment blueprint maps the student learning objectives onto the different assessment item types, and indicates the number of items that will appear on the assessment for each objective.

Example of an assessment Blueprint

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Multiple Choice** | **Short answer**  **(Analyze information)** | **Essay** |
| **Objective: Students will be able to recall key facts** | 5 |  |  |
| **Objectives: Students will be able to analyze information** |  | 3 |  |
| **Objective: Students will be able to synthesize information** |  |  | 1 |

**Please share your program’s examples of creating effective assessments!** Please email to me examples of how your program designs effective assessments,  I will feature those examples on [YU’s Learning Assessment Website](https://owa.yu.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=qfPSe4wRYkKrpT3C8vPq8A7wjn94UtMIlXPnm4uIb63uPB_8kYqY2U_p2t2TYINMonFFOW1vbo0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fyu.edu%2fprovost%2fassessment%2f).

**Check out!**:  [Raynak, C. and Ramsay, C. (2016). Testing what your teaching without teaching to the test. *Faculty Focus,* Magna Publications.](https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/testing-youre-teaching-without-teaching-test/)

**Important Reminder: End-of-semester Assessment Reports Due June 15:** Please remember to email me your end-of-semester assessment reports by **June 15.**  If you would like to discuss any aspect of your program assessment activities, I would be happy to meet with you.  Please email me so that we can schedule a time.  Thanks very much.