SELF-ASSESSMENTS

DESCRIPTION

Self-assessments are diagnostic assessments of learning performed by the student, concerning their own knowledge of the subject material. These assessments may or may not be graded, but give students a measureable and quantitative way of assessing their skill level and understanding of the material; and are a valuable tool for studying and preparing for coursework and/or graded assignments. This includes analyzing specific areas to provide specific results through data the student then analyzes.

Like assessments, self-assessments should be aligned with course, module, and assignment learning objectives. They involve four cognitive skills:

- Observing – The student’s awareness of what they have done so far.
- Analyzing – The student’s understanding of where they are strongest and weakest.
- Judging – The student’s understanding with how their performance lines up with learning objectives and course goals.
- Planning – The student’s understanding of how to use this information to better their performance.

Examples

- Instructors use self-assessments to obtain a quantitative understand of their skill level in a subject matter.
- Instructors use this quantitative information to make well informed decisions about a class, especially with their teaching methods.
- Instructors are sure to keep their understanding of a subject’s course elements are at least above satisfactory for all elements.

WHY

Here are a few ways that Self-Assessments can benefit you as well as your students:

- Stimulate recall, one of the most important factors in retention.
- Help correct errors of over-confidence and under-confidence in students about their learning.
- Help students understand more about how their learning will be evaluated.
- Help identify strong points and potential weaknesses.
- Understanding the data will allow any student to appropriately select an area of study within a subject matter and apply his or her time to

BEST PRACTICES TO CONSIDER

- Host self-assessments before instructing a class.
- After completing a given assessment, review the data collected about your strengths and weaknesses in the subject.
- Select areas of the assessment you’ve been tested on which your skills need the most improvement.
- Improve these skills through studying and retaking tests to increase your skills and command over a subject matter before teaching.
- Use the quiz tool to incorporate self-assessments in each module. You can configure the quiz provide immediate feedback for each possible answer.
- Intersperse your lectures with mini self-assessments.
- Don’t just stick with quizzes self-assessment, discussion groups where students talk about what they are learning, or essay responses can also help students get a grip on how they are progressing.

**MORE INFORMATION**

*Tensions in Informed Self-Assessment: How the Desire for Feedback and Reticence to Collect and Use It Can Conflict*

- This research explored the stresses of undergoing self-assessment can cause troublesome results and discusses how they can be mitigated.
- URL: http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Abstract/2011/09000/Tensions_in_Informed_Self_Assessment__How_the.24.aspx

*Promoting Learning and Achievement Through Self-Assessment*

- This article supports the use of formative criterion-based self-assessment to support learning.
- URL: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00405840802577544#.UeV16G3IV8E

*Why we overestimate our competence*

- This article talks about the dunning-kruger effect. Understanding the reasons students may feel over confident about their knowledge can help you create self-assessments that assist student self-knowledge and performance.
- URL: http://www.apa.org/monitor/feb03/overestimate.aspx

*Taking Self-Assessment Seriously*

- This article proposes seven concepts of self-assessment that define it as an ongoing process of improvement and development.
- URL: http://cte.udel.edu/sites/cte.udel.edu/files/u7/vol15n2.htm

*Course Assessment Practice and Student Learning Strategies in Online Courses*

- This document explains the importance of course assessments and why self-assessment is aligned to the structure of an online course.
- URL: http://www.bucks.edu/media/bcccmedialibrary/documents/academics/faculty_webresources/Assessment_design_sloan.pdf

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