

Assessing Your Students Throughout the Semester

Teachers who regularly assess students' knowledge, preparation levels, and learning styles can modify semester plans as well as weekly lessons to best teach their students the skills and information necessary to succeed in class. This page will cover a few types of assessment appropriate at various times during the semester and during class meetings. The reverse page will offer a few strategies for teaching to students with a variety of learning styles and levels of preparation.

Assessing your students at the . . .

Beginning of the semester

- Informal introductions are a great way to find out each student's major, year in school, and interest in the course material.
- Index cards allow you to gather and record information about the above, as well as prior courses students may have taken in your subject area.
- A content knowledge quiz allows you to establish what your students already know and what they need to learn.
- VARK (see handout) is a quick inventory of your students' learning styles.

Middle and end of semester

- Regular quizzes are a useful tool for planning review sessions to best meet the gaps in students' knowledge.
- Readminister the content knowledge quiz from the first week of class in the last week of class to show your students what they've learned and to evaluate your own success in teaching them the necessary skills and information.

Before, during, or after a section/lab/class meeting

- Assess your students' understanding of the readings, lectures, or homework using a first-to-five self-evaluation.
- Ask students to complete short written self-assessments following a complicated discussion or unit.

When turning in an assignment

- Ask your students to complete a self-evaluation of their work, explaining what they think they did well and what they would like to improve (see Lewinnek Method handout).