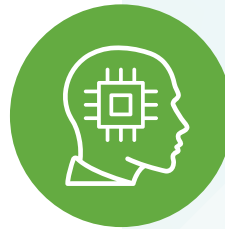


Learning Science

Assessments: New Uses for an Old Tool



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What are Assessments?

Educators and students alike often think of an assessment as the final stop on the path of learning. Our current understanding of cognitive and neuroscience has taught us, however, that assessments can be an invaluable learning tool as well as a means of evaluation. Properly designed and well-written assessments can determine mastery of material, grade or rank students, measure student progress, reinforce learning, motivate students, and provide feedback to instructors. Assessments include more than just written exams; they encompass any form of evaluation or appraisal of a student's educational progress by formal or informal means.

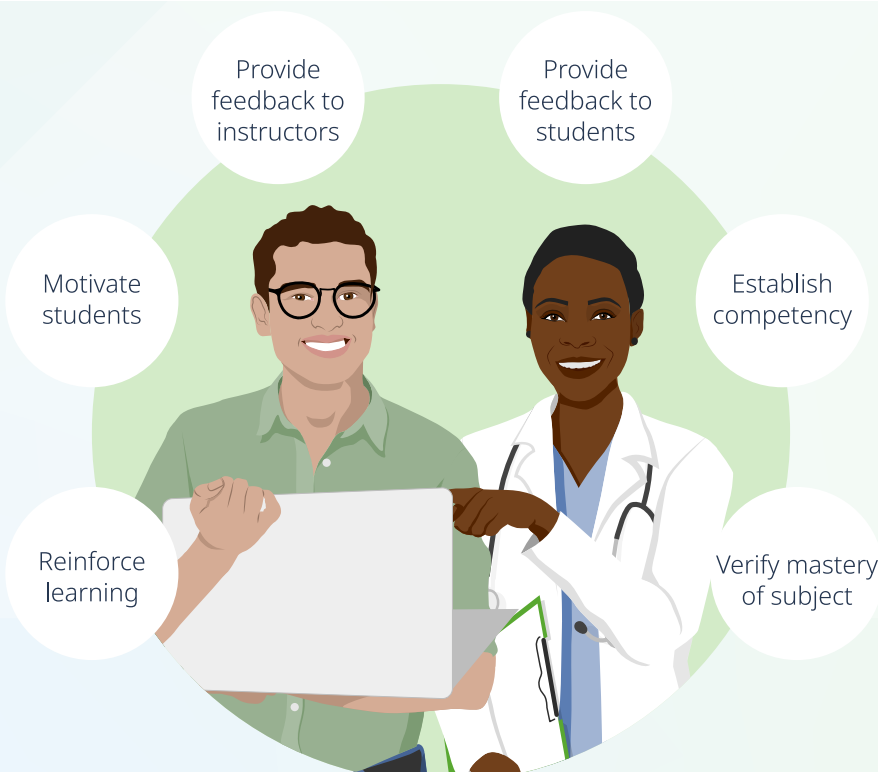
The Learning Science Team

is pleased to share this summary information from our recent seminar **"Assessments: New Uses for an Old Tool"** with our international educator community. We hope that by reading this material you will be inspired and better equipped to implement these helpful learning methods in your teaching practices.



Peter Horneffer

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Data

Where do the participants of the assessments seminar come from?

8.0%

Europe

12.0%

South America & Caribbean

22.0%

Asia & Pacific

18.0%

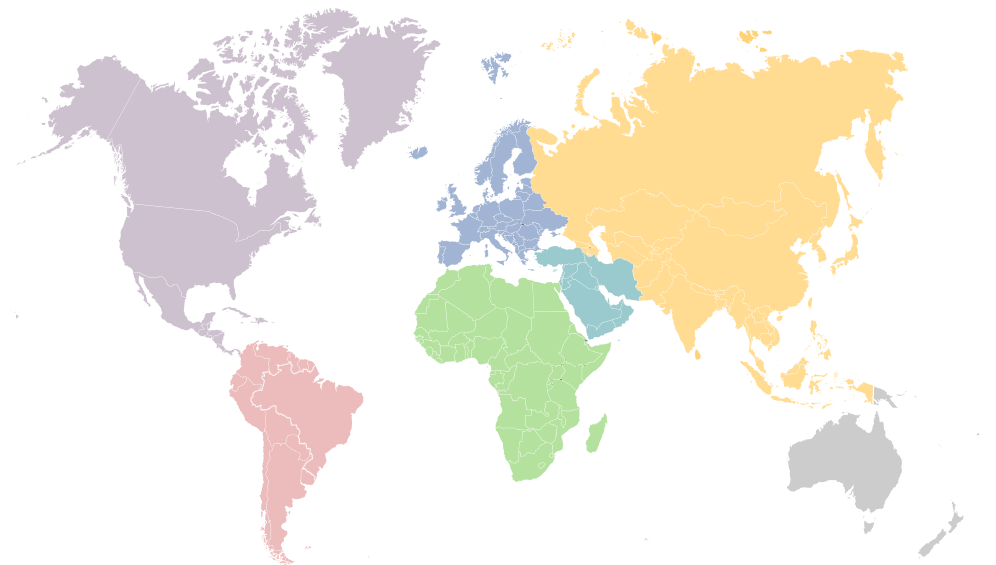
Africa

28.0%

North America

12.0%

Middle East



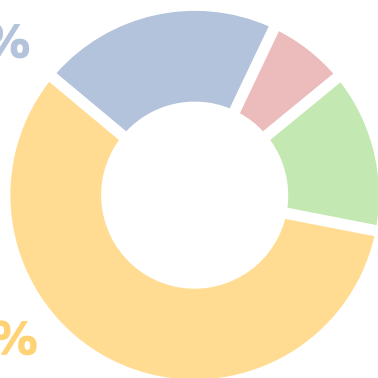
Source: Zoom poll

21.0%

7.0%

14.0%

58.0%



● Not familiar ● Neutral ● Slightly familiar ● Very familiar

How familiar are our participants with assessments?

While many educators are familiar with aspects of assessments, they may not be familiar with some evidence-based principles and models that demonstrate the new uses of assessments. A majority of our participants (58%) reported some familiarity with assessments prior to the start of the seminar and around 21% of participants were not very familiar with the concepts presented during the event.

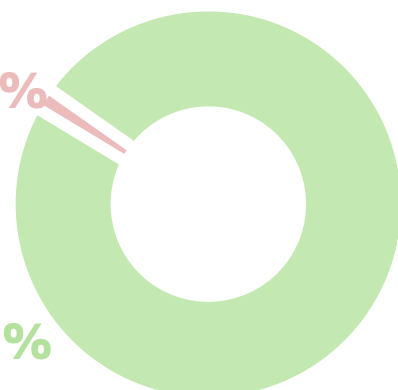
Source: Survey

Do our participants plan to implement any of the strategies they have learned in their classes going forward?

● I plan to implement the strategies in my classes
● I do not plan to implement the strategies in my classes

1.4%

98.6%



How can the principles participants learned affect their courses in the future?

Participants plan to implement learning objectives models and principles in planning for their courses by aiming at a variety of necessary outcomes. The responses were grouped into three major categories:

- **Assessments are learning tools:** Participants aim at using different forms of assessments to facilitate the learning process.
- **Technology invites new uses for assessments:** Participants will ensure they incorporate technology to assess their students and invest in the current platforms/facilities they have.
- **Allows reflection on the teaching-learning process:** Participants will evaluate the efficiency of their teaching by analyzing the data they manage to extract from assessment results.

24.0% Assessments are learning tools

9.0% Technology invites new uses for assessments

14.0% Allows reflection on the teaching-learning process

53.0% Other effects

What challenges do you face in implementing evidence-based strategies in your courses?

Implementing evidence-based principles to develop well-written assessments can be challenging for faculty without institutional support since most have not been formally trained in the process and might therefore face an abundance of challenges (see diagram below). Our participants shared their biggest barriers to creating assessments for their courses, departments, and/or institutions. The most commonly cited issues were time, lack of resources, and students' resistance. Some also reported issues like lack of knowledge and/or support. Finally, a few participants have reported that no challenges were faced in designing assessments for their courses.

21.0% Time

21.0% Student resistance/motivation

15.0% Lack of knowledge and/or support

19.0% Technology/lack of resources

17.0% Other challenges

9.0% No challenges

Resources

Seminars

- [Online seminar library for health professions educators](#) ►
- [Educational webinars for health professions students](#) ►



[Lecturio platform demo request](#) ►

Articles

- [Assessments: New Uses for an Old Tool](#) ►
- [Learning Objectives and Assessments: Evidence-Based Recommendations for Optimal Efficacy](#) ►
- [Effective Presentations: Optimize the learning experience with evidence-based multimedia principles](#) ►