

REFLECTING ON COURSE DESIGN AND ALIGNMENT

Course: _____

What is the primary goal of your course?

Using your course syllabus, identify 2 major learning objectives you wish for students to achieve in your class. If you don't currently identify objectives on your syllabus or you don't have your syllabus with you, try to reflect on what you want your students to achieve and write those objectives below.

1.

2.

Thinking about your course, identify the major assessments you use to evaluate student learning. List/describe 2-3 of your major assessments below (ie. An oral presentation on..., a 12 page research paper, a multiple choice and essay exam etc). Select the assessments that you feel most directly link to the objectives you wrote above.

1.

2.

3.

Reflect on how well the major assessments you listed align with your major objectives. Do the assessments require your students to both do and know what you stated was important in the learning objective? Good curricular design and alignment requires the establishment of 1) identifying what is worth learning (objectives) and 2) determining if learning has occurred (assessment). Reflecting on this alignment can help to improve course design and guide the selection of content and instructional strategies. Ask yourself: To what extent are my assessments reflecting my stated objectives?

Share your objectives and assessments and your thoughts on their alignment with a colleague at your table.

Finally, how will you know if your students learned and if they met the objective? What types of feedback might emerge during the course and/or in evaluating student work that might indicate either successful or unsuccessful learning? How can you keep track of this information?

**** REMEMBER, IT IS CRITICAL TO IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS AND TO WORK ON IMPROVEMENT BY MAKING CHANGES AS NECESSARY. COLLECTING, OBSERVING, EVALUATING AND GRADING STUDENT WORK SHOULD PROVIDE BOTH THE STUDENT AND THE INSTRUCTOR WITH FEEDBACK.**

Finally, if you are satisfied with the alignment of the stated objectives and the established assessments, work to identify the best possible instructional strategies that will help you convey the knowledge/skills/abilities necessary for successful learning (based on your strengths and preferences) and that will help your students practice and develop their knowledge/skills/abilities in order to successfully master the learning objectives established (based on best practices and the alignment to the assessment). Identify two different potential strategies below:

