

TRANSFORMING ASSESSMENT

— STRATEGIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION —

Learner Guide

Welcome to Transforming Assessment: Strategies for Higher Education.

This self-paced, professional learning e-course provides higher education instructors with the opportunity to transform their assessment practices – building on existing assessment knowledge and skills, reflecting on foundational assessment principles, exploring contemporary assessment strategies, and creating new assessments – to support students’ learning across disciplines and contexts. The course is ideal for professors, instructors, and graduate students looking to enhance their assessment practices for university and college teaching contexts.

The course uses a variety of resources and learning activities to engage you in transforming your assessment knowledge and practice, including interactive tasks, expert videos, a guided workbook, a planning framework, and curated resources. The course emphasizes moving from traditional paper and pencil assessments to authentic, alternative assessments of student learning.

- You can complete this e-course individually or collaboratively with colleagues.
- You can complete the whole course or individual modules or topics depending on your learning priorities.

This course was developed by [Queen’s Assessment and Evaluation Group \(AEG\)](#) in partnership with the [University of Toronto’s Ontario Institute for Studies in Education \(OISE\)](#) and funded by [eCampus Ontario’s Virtual Learning Strategy](#).

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, learners should be able to:

1. Apply foundational assessment principles and e-tools to the design of an assessment plan
2. Apply alternative assessment strategies to ensure alignment, authenticity, and transparency in assessment
3. Apply assessment principles to practically and critically address dilemmas in student assessment
4. Create “good” assessments for a variety of teaching contexts (in-person, blended, online) and students’ needs
5. Integrate Equity, Diversity, Decolonization, and Indigeneity (EDDI) strategies in assessment planning and decisions

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COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into five modules:

- **Getting Started: Approaches to Classroom Assessment**
Begin by taking an inventory of your current approach to assessment.
- **Module 1: Grounding Assessment**
Reflect on your approach to assessment in relation to foundational assessment theory and research.
- **Module 2: Exploring Alternative Assessments**
Learn practical strategies that support feedback-driven, student-centred, authentic assessments.
- **Module 3: Creating Alternative Assessments**
Use a planning framework to create an assessment for a course you teach.
- **Wrapping Up: Revisiting Approaches to Classroom Assessment**
Retake the inventory of your approach to assessment and set professional goals for the future.

Within each module, you will explore research-based content and engage in various activities to apply and reflect on your learning about assessment. You may work through the modules in any sequence; however, the course has been designed to progress in sequence from Getting Started through Wrapping Up.

COURSE RESOURCES

Please download the following resources to support your completion of the course:

- Course Workbook
- Assessment Planning Framework

You may also want to download the following resources:

- Accessible Course Document
- Curated Course References

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Time Commitment

While this course is self-paced, the following times provide estimates of approximately how long it will take to complete each module and its associated topics. Workbook activities and independent reading will require additional time.

GETTING STARTED – 60 MINUTES

MODULE 1 – 150 MINUTES

Introduction: 20 minutes

Topic 1: 40 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 2: 40 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 3: 30 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 4: 20 minutes + activities & readings

MODULE 2 – 180 MINUTES

Introduction: 30 minutes

Topic 1: 60 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 2: 40 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 3: 20 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 4: 30 minutes + activities & readings

MODULE 3 – 110 - 150 MINUTES

Introduction: 20 minutes

Topic 1: 20 - 80 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 2: 30 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 3: 30 minutes + activities & readings

Topic 4: 10 - 30 minutes + activities & readings

WRAPPING UP – 60 MINUTES

Certificates of Completion

At the end of each module, you will be able to download a Certificate of Completion. You will also be able to download a full course Certificate of Completion after completing all five modules. By the end of the course, you will have expanded your assessment knowledge, skills, and habits of mind in ways that will inform your future instructional practice and shape your ongoing professional learning about assessment.

Let's get started!