**Backward Design Worksheet Stage 2: Assessment**

For a reminder of the stages consult CTL’s Teaching Tip: **Backward Design: A Powerful Course Design Method with Guidelines**

This worksheet can be used to develop a course and units or modules, then consulted to take a comparable approach for daily class meetings.

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| **Evidence Students Have Achieved Desired Results** | |
| Performance Tasks – Summative Assessment  (graded, final products that prove course or unit mastery) | Other Evidence – Formative Assessment  (graded or ungraded, feedback to student and professor that learning is in progress) |
| Having developed the performance tasks, ask yourself   * Will your assessments provide **valid, reliable** feedback to be confident that students have achieved the desired results? * Is your assessment “forward looking”: realistic, requires judgment, innovation, simulates doing the subject, real life contexts, requires synthesis? * Have you developed transparency in grading criteria to uncover disciplinary expectations? * If your summative assessment is a capstone project, have you scaffolded, that is created stages of completion that provide sufficient feedback that students are making progress? * Have you included opportunities for students to reflect upon their learning behaviors (e.g. metacognition and self-regulated learning)? | Having developed the other evidence of learning in progress, ask yourself   * Will your formative assessments allow students to practice, rehearse, refine, get better at low risk? * Are your formative assessments frequent and timely to allow for improvement? * Will your formative assessments be perceived as useful to student learning? * Have you contemplated ways to reduce the potential burden of grading formative assessment? * Have you included opportunities for students to reflect upon their learning behaviors (e.g. metacognition and self-regulated learning)? |

Adapted from Wiggins and McTighe, Understanding by Design, and L. Dee Fink, *Creating Significant Learning Experiences*.

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**Resources to Consult:**

I could recommend many books and articles to ponder assessment and grading procedures; they are written by individuals who have extensive classroom experience and are involved in faculty development. Below is my short list of monographs.

Elizabeth Barkley and Claire Howell Major, *Learning Assessment Techniques: A Handbook for College Faculty* (2016)

Updates Cross and Angelo’s Classroom Assessment Techniques and organizes assessments around L. Dee Fink’s Taxonomy of Significant Learning Experiences

Linda Nilson, *Specifications Grading: Restoring Rigor, Motivating Students, and Saving Faculty Time* (2015)

As the title suggests, developing specifications can reduce grading time.

Dannelle D. Stevens and Antonia J. Levi, *Introduction to Rubrics: An Assessment to Save Grading Time, Convey Effective Feedback, and Promote Student Learning* (2012)

Thorough, efficient explanation of why we should use rubrics, and how to create.

Barbara Walvoord and Virginia Johnson Anderson, *Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment in College* (2009)

The authors break down the stages of grading in a faculty-friendly way.