

Assessment of Student Learning

January 2008 Tip of the Month

10 Guidelines for Assessing as If Learning Matters Most

If learning really matters most, then our assessment practices should help students develop the skills, dispositions, and knowledge needed to:

- Engage actively – intellectually and emotionally – in their academic work
- Set and maintain realistically high, personally meaningful expectations and goals
- Provide, receive, and make use of regular, timely, specific feedback
- Become explicitly aware of their values, beliefs, preconceptions, and prior learning -- and be willing to unlearn when necessary
- Work in ways that recognize (and stretch) their present learning styles/preferences and levels of development
- Seek and find connections to and real-world applications of what they're learning
- Understand and value the criteria, standards, and methods by which they are assessed and evaluated
- Work regularly and productively with academic staff
- Work regularly and productively with other students
- Invest as much engaged time and high-quality effort as possible in academic work