

Embedded Assessment: An Orientation

Why Assess?

We assess in order to improve and enhance student outcomes.
We could list dozens of more reasons for multiple stakeholders.
But they would all point back to student outcomes.

Beyond Grades

Embedded assessment (EA) moves beyond grading.

Grades are necessary but not sufficient.
Standards vary and so GPAs lose meaning.
Grades are awarded for individual classes, not programs.

What Embedded Assessment Is ... and Isn't

EA uses student work produced in classes.

The assessment may even be referred to as “student products.”
The assessment is often the graded work of the course.
All students are represented in the process.

EA is classroom based, managed by faculty.

Faculty create the assessment tools.
Faculty audit the process and review the results.
Faculty use the results to make changes in curriculum.

EA links assessment with content.

The assessment genuinely reflects the course of study.
The assessment is aligned with the course objectives.
The assessment is similarly aligned with program purposes.

EA is *not* faculty evaluation.

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Pieces of the Process: Multi-method Approach

