

Developing and Using an Assessment Blueprint

Most larger or summative assessments are designed to assess more than one learning outcome. An assessment blueprint outlines the cognitive levels, assessment types, number of questions, number of points, and the percent of the assessment aligned to each learning outcome being assessed. It may prove valuable to you and your students to create an assessment blueprint to serve as a guide to analyzing a single assessment.

To begin, select one of your assessments and use it to complete the following chart.

Learning Outcome	Cognitive Level	Assessment Type	# of Qs	# of Pts	Percent

Review the percent column on the chart to assess the “weight” being assigned to each learning outcome. Determine if the “weight” for each learning outcome represents its relative importance on this assessment. If it doesn’t, you may need to make adjustments to the number of questions or point values to better represent the importance of each learning outcome.

Share your assessment blueprint with students to help them better connect course outcomes with course assessments.

Follow this process for each assessment in your course.

Keep in mind that this tool is not limited to assessments. Blueprints can also be created for course assignments or activities that are aligned to your course learning outcomes. This will help students see how the entire course—the assignments, activities, and assessments—are aligned to the course outcomes. Clarity of expectations will help students put forth their “best work,” and it also communicates your own level of commitment to ensuring that your assignments are valuable learning experiences for students, aligned to important course learning outcomes.