

Module 7 - Assessment

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Hello, my name is Phillip Dawson and I'd like to talk to you about this module on assessment.

So, there's this great quote from Paul Ramsden from way back: "From our students' point of view, assessment always defines the actual curriculum." I don't know if that speaks to your experience of teaching, learning, maybe being a student yourself, but it certainly what I've observed as well. Students seem to be driven by the requirements of the assessment – for better, or for worse.

There's this other great quote from my current boss, Professor David Boud back in '95: "Students can, with difficulty, escape from the effects of poor teaching. They cannot, by definition, if they want to graduate, escape the effects of poor assessment." Assessment really matters. Assessment both drives what students do (per Ramsden), and it's kind of inescapable.

What do we think is really important for you to learn about assessment? In this module, you're going to talk about:

- Your role in assessment - what is your role here; there's a lot of people with different things they do in assessment.
- Assessment's purposes - it's often thought that assessment is about figuring out what people know and assigning a number to that. Certainly that's very, very important, but assessment also serves other purposes, most notably developing student learning, helping them learn the things we're assessing.

You'll focus particularly on assessment in your unit. The module is full of examples, activities for you to work on things to do with your unit.

You'll learn about quality, moderation, marking. These are all really important, because the university accredits people to do things that are really meaningful for society. Quality matters. And also, importantly, academic integrity and plagiarism matter. Academic integrity being somewhat of the opposite of plagiarism, cheating and those sorts of things. The idea that we should build in ethical values around attribution, scholarship and quality work into study at university.

Thanks a lot for taking this module, I hope you really enjoy it. Please feel free to reach out to myself or Bea through social media or email if you're interested in keeping the discussion going, and please contribute to the forums on here. Thanks a lot!



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