Course Assessment Ideas

1) Match the assessment task to the learning objectives
   - When designing an assessment task consider:
     o Types of assessments should be appropriate for the course materials and desired course outcomes.
     o Use quantitative assessment when objective and numeric assessment is needed.
     o Use qualitative assessment when that kind of thinking and writing is needed.
     o For group projects, use both group and individual measures.


2) Take precautions to limit the possibility of cheating
   - Ways to minimize student cheating:
     o Relieve pressure by providing multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of course goals.
     o Create a meaningful assessment that is not overly long.
     o Administer assessment in small group sections where students are known and the student sense of accountability may be greater.
     o Create randomized tests.


3) Communicate assessment task clearly
   - When creating an assessment:
     o Provide a rationale
     o Explain terms
     o Offer suggestions for methods of approach
     o Explain conventions that effect student response
     o Use short clear language written from a student perspective
     o Utilize a rubric for grading and feedback


4) Use formative assessment to promote deeper learning
   - Utilize these kinds of assessment tools:
     o Portfolio to demonstrate learning outcomes
     o Journal entries for reflective learning
     o Discussions for peer engagement and content
     o Capstone projects for summative review

5) Use self-assessment to improve learning and self-awareness
   - Some conclusions about self-assessment include:
     - Use as formative assessment (students see their own progress)
     - Student that participate in self-assessment perform better on exams
     - Online technologies make self-assessment more feasible
     - Self-assessment is a valuable life skill that teaches student to become lifelong learners


6) Conduct peer-assessments among students
   - Peer assessment is part of a learning process and can be part of the self-assessment process. It can contribute to building community as well as motivating students and group efforts.
   - Below are three forms of peer-assessment:
     - Peer Ranking – from best to worst
     - Peer Nomination – based on standards
     - Peer Rating – based on multiple standards (rubrics)


7) Constantly evaluate your assessment practices
   - Examine the following in assessment practices:
     - The appropriateness of the assessment item
     - Student responses (what is the student’s perception, motivation or meaningful demonstration of learning?)
     - The nature and quality of feedback as it pertains to the learning outcomes
     - The nature and quality of the support (tutoring, etc.)
     - Be aware of your audience in regards to diversity and satisfaction of outcomes


   Adapted from: http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/2852.asp