



MEETING LEARNERS WHERE THEY ARE

Using Assessment for Learning to Support Your Students



Assessment for learning, also known as formative assessment, creates valuable pathways to enhancing learner outcomes in today's evolving medical education landscape. Below are key strategies to help you incorporate this approach into your classrooms and curriculum — and expand growth opportunities for your students.

WHAT DOES EFFECTIVE FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?



- ▶ **Regular assessment** with follow-up offers students multiple opportunities to apply feedback.
- ▶ **Connect feedback** directly to core learning objectives for maximum impact.
- ▶ **Employ diverse assessment methods** to build a comprehensive understanding.
- ▶ Encourage student reflection and goal-setting to **develop learner agency**.
- ▶ **Deliver specific, timely, actionable feedback** with clear assessment criteria and other practice opportunities.

DESIGNING MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT

Time constraints can challenge implementation of assessment for learning. Consider these approaches:

Use exemplars such as video demonstrations or written samples to clarify learner expectations.

Incorporate structured rubrics to streamline feedback and provide consistent evaluation frameworks.

Promote self-reflection to help students internalize feedback and develop critical self-evaluation skills.

PROVIDING OPTIMAL FEEDBACK

Time feedback strategically.

Deliver immediate feedback to reinforce learning, or delay feedback to encourage deeper reflection.

Be specific and constructive.

Focus on actionable guidance rather than simply identifying errors.

Encourage conversation.

Create opportunities for questions and discussions to ensure feedback is fully understood and actionable.



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Self-reflection is the culmination, the core, the heartbeat of assessment for learning, because what we want our learners to be able to do is to take a pause, evaluate where they are, think about where they need to go, and then formulate a strategy on how to get there or seek help.



— **ANASTASIYA LIPNEVICH, PHD**
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and NBME Visiting Scholar

To learn more about this topic, watch the **Assessment for Learning in Medical Education: Supporting Students' Growth and Development** webinar — and discover how assessment for learning not only evaluates, but also elevates the next generation of physicians.

WATCH THE WEBINAR ▶



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