

# BEST PRACTICES FOR EQUITABLE ASSESSMENT

## 1 Learn as much information as you can about your students.

To understand how well your students are doing in your class, it helps to understand who they are and consider the different ways they learn course content based on their previous educational experiences. Work to avoid making assumptions about your students. The more you learn about them, the better you will be at thoughtfully engaging them and facilitating their engagement with one another.

## 4 Hold regular office hours, and be sure that students are clear on their duration and format.

Office hours are an excellent way to assess how well students are absorbing course content and discuss challenges that may be impacting their progress in the midst of the semester. Office hours and other opportunities for students to meet with their instructors are effective ways to get to know them and provide one-on-one feedback and advice.

## 2 Hold all students to the same standards and provide equal opportunities for success.

If students disclose a disability or have other life circumstances that may impact their ability to learn and fully participate in your course, work with them to provide accommodations and use the resources and expertise available on campus to assist in their success (e.g., Learning Innovation, Disability Management, Academic Resource Center).

## 5 Create regular opportunities for students to provide feedback on your course.

Some students may be concerned to admit that they are having a difficult time understanding course material. By normalizing the practice of giving and receiving feedback, students may feel more comfortable regularly sharing their thoughts with instructors and requesting help that they need. (This feedback can be anonymous to further encourage students to candidly share their input.)

## 3 Provide opportunities for students to participate in classroom discourse in different ways.

Many classes have participation requirements, and for some students (particularly those whose first language is not English), verbal interactions may be more challenging. Consider allowing participation options that include a variety of formats so all students can engage in a confident manner. Utilizing strategies such as clickers, written prompts, and virtual discussion forums may enable reserved students to feel confident in sharing their opinions and knowledge. Diversifying instructional methodologies helps to hold all students to the same standards.

## 6 Assess the mastery of course subject matter on a regular basis, and vary the assessment format.

Plan regular evaluations of student progress, and vary the format of these check-ins to ensure that all students have an opportunity to accurately demonstrate their mastery of course materials. Consider assessing early in the semester to get early feedback.

## 7 Work to include examples and test questions that represent individuals from different backgrounds and life experiences.

When assessing students, consider using exam questions and case studies that, when relevant, can represent all types of individuals and life experiences.



