Study Unit 13: The Grading System: Arriving at Decisions

Study Guide for Programmatic Assessment

Programmatic assessment is a new way of approaching arriving at decisions and developing assessment and grading systems by going beyond assessment of multiple domains on a one-to-one correspondence: one assessment for each domain. It advocates for ensuring that the purpose of assessment is ***for*** learning. The article by ***Shuwirth & Van Der Vleuten entitled “Programmatic assessment: From assessment of learning to assessment for learning”*** presents an overview of programmatic assessment as a new way to approach the use of assessment information from varied assessments to arrive at evaluation decisions about student performance.

After reading the article, try to answer the following questions. You may want to go back to the article if you need to.

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| **Think…**  1. How has the role of assessment in education changed?  2. What is the central key to programmatic assessment?  3. Is there a “best” method to assess each learning domain? Explain why or why not.  4. What is the misconception regarding objective and subjective tests?  5. In programmatic assessment, how can subjective elements be assessed?  6. What is the “therapeutic decision”?  7. What are some possible research topics in assessment that you think still lack literature on which you would be interested to study? |

Programmatic assessment provides a more wholistic view on assessment for the purpose of learning, but involves careful selection of the most appropriate assessment methods, and designing a system that involves organizational support and proper training of assessors to arrive at valid and reliable decisions.