

PERFORMANCE-BASED INSTRUCTION

Success is the main goal of any learning experience. In performance-based learning, the instructor carefully identifies what the student needs to be able to do as a result of a learning experience. Assessment activities are designed to allow the student the opportunity to demonstrate the target skills, knowledge, and attitudes that are a result of the learning experiences of the course.

Benefits for the student

1. The student learns skills and knowledge that can be applied, rather than outlines of information.
2. What the student will learn is identified at the onset of learning activities. How and when the student will demonstrate course competencies are clearly defined. This allows the student to plan how to invest their time and energy. A tentative course schedule, including competencies, is included in the course schedule.
3. The standards for evaluation are defined before the assessment activity ensues. The grade is based on according to how well the student has performed the skills rather than according to how well others in the class perform. The student is not graded on a “curve”.
4. The student is actively involved in the learning. Learning activities and assignments are designed to teach the student to solve problems and to learn on their own.
5. When the learning experience is completed, the student will have documentation showing the skills and knowledge learned. This information can be used when seeking employment, admission to further education, or for advanced standing or transfer of credit.

Basic Terminology

Competency: A major skill, knowledge, or attitude that the student will learn as a result of a given learning experience.

Criteria: Specifications that describe a successful performance.

Conditions: Descriptions of how the student will show that they have achieved a competency.

Learning Objectives: Supporting skills that the student will learn as a step toward mastering a specific competency.

Learning Activities: Statements that describe strategies for learning skills, knowledge, and attitudes.

Assessment Activities: Statements that describe what the student must do to get feedback on their performance or earn credit for course achievements.

Performance Assessment Task - Directions for completing a required assignment and a scoring guide telling the student how their performance of a skill or the product created will be evaluated.