

# Why do we assess?

01



## Building self-awareness and self-evaluation

Assessment can help students to work out where they are with their learning at a given moment. It can also help them to understand their learning processes, and what contributes to effective learning for them.

02



## Building confidence

Assessment can provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning to their teachers, other students, themselves and potentially other audiences. Achieving and evidencing learning can build student confidence.

03



## Identifying goals

Assessment can help students to identify what they need to focus on next. It can help them to see what they know and what they are doing successfully. It can also help them to identify the gaps in their learning: where they might need to increase focus or effort, or where they might need to seek help or guidance.

04



## Nurturing belonging

University learning is a social process. Learning and assessment can be used to help students to become members of disciplinary, departmental and institutional communities, and to feel a sense of belonging with fellow students and staff.

05



## Identifying improvements

Robust, fit for purpose assessment and feedback can help students to identify where and how they might enhance their learning. Assessment enables students to identify and address errors and shortcomings – helping students to work out where they are going wrong.

06



## Assessing fitness to perform

Some university learning and assessment is directly associated with the achievement of competencies which will be needed in the workplace. Assessment can provide students with opportunities to ensure that they are fit-to-practice in professional settings.

07



## Satisfying the needs of specific organizations

Some university assessment practices need to meet external requirements, assuring stakeholders that relevant Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements are satisfactorily and confidently being met.

08



## Accreditation

University learning is accredited by the institution which confirms the achievement of declared standards. Assessment process are central to the accreditation process.



## How to cite this resource:

Brown, S and Sambell, K (2022) *Assess for Success - Why do we assess?* Maynooth: Maynooth University.



CC BY-NC-SA: This license allows re-users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for non-commercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must license the modified material under identical terms.

