

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

What is it?

Summative assessment is used to measure, evaluate, and document the extent to which students have achieved a learning target at the end of a unit of study or instructional period (Keeley, 2016; 2013). These assessments are used to evaluate student learning, academic performance and achievement, and skill development. According to the Glossary of Education Reform, summative assessments are defined by the use of the following three criteria:

- They are used to determine whether or not students have learned what they were expected to learn and to what degree they learned the information.
- Evaluative versus diagnostic, as they are given at the conclusion of an instructional period and used to determine progress and achievement, evaluate the effectiveness of a program, measure progress toward improvement goals, etc.
- The results of the assessment are often recorded and factored into a student's overall performance in a subject using scores or grades.

Components of Summative Assessment

- Evaluate students' work or their understanding of a lesson, unit, or module (Pear Assessment Team, 2024; Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning)
- Determine student growth over a period of time (Pear Assessment Team, 2024)
- Communicates to students how well their understanding compares to the intended goal (Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning)
- Helps in determining a student's grade (Pear Assessment Team, 2024)
- Used for accountability purposes for schools, teachers, and students (Pear Assessment Team, 2024)

Benefits of Summative Assessment

- More objective (Lane, 2017)
- Efficient and easier to score since there is typically one correct answer (Lane, 2017)
- Broader, as it can cover more concepts (Lane, 2017; Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning)
- Can be used in alignment with formative assessment (Yale Center for Teaching and Learning)

Resources:

Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. (n.d.). *Summative and Formative Assessment*. <https://citl.indiana.edu/teaching-resources/assessing-student-learning/summative-formative/index.html>

Keeley, P. (2016). *Science formative assessment: 75 practical strategies for linking assessment, instruction, and learning* (Vol. 1). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

Lane, A. J. (2017, March 8). *Formative and Summative Assessment - Faculty Development*. SlideShare. <https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/formative-and-summative-assessment-faculty-development/72962232>.

Pear Assessment Team. (2024, January 15). A Guide to Types of Assessment: Diagnostic, Formative, Interim, and Summative. Pear Deck Learning. <https://www.peardeck.com/blog/a-guide-to-types-of-assessment-diagnostic-formative-interim-and-summative>

Summative assessment definition. (2013, August 29). The Glossary of Education Reform. <https://www.edglossary.org/summative-assessment/>

Yale Center for Teaching and Learning. (n.d.). Formative and Summative Assessments | Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning. Formative and Summative Assessments | Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning. <https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/Formative-Summative-Assessments>