What is the difference between assessment and evaluation?

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- **Assessment** focuses on learning, teaching and outcomes. It provides information for improving learning and teaching. Assessment is an interactive process between students and faculty that informs faculty how well their students are learning what they are teaching. The information is used by faculty to make changes in the learning environment, and is shared with students to assist them in improving their learning and study habits. This information is learner-centered, course based, frequently anonymous, and <u>not</u> graded.

- **Evaluation** focuses on grades and may reflect classroom components other than course content and mastery level. These could include discussion, cooperation, attendance, and verbal ability.

- The table below summarizes key differences between assessment and evaluation

Dimension of Difference	Assessment	Evaluation
Content: timing, primary purpose	*Formative:* ongoing, to improve learning	*Summative:* final, to gauge quality
Orientation: focus of measurement	*Process-oriented:* how learning is going	*Product-oriented:* what's been learned
Findings: uses thereof	*Diagnostic:* identify areas for improvement	*Judgmental:* arrive at an overall grade/score

Content adapted from:

Angelo, T and Cross, K.P. 1993. Classroom assessment techniques a handbook for college teachers. Jossey-Bass A Wiley Imprint, San Francisco, CA. Pp 427.

Assessment of Student Learning in STEM disciplines. A Duke University 'Teaching IDEAS workshop' presented by Ed Neal, Ph.D. Director of Faculty Development, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of North Carolina.