**Assessment of student learning and case effectiveness**

What is the impact of cases on student learning? What do faculty say? How do teachers assess the impact of cases on their students? What are some good resources for classroom-based assessment?

**Tools and approaches to assessing student learning with cases**

Assessment is a key part of the teaching and learning process. We want to know what students are learning from using cases. The assessment process should begin with your goals and objectives. What were your learning outcomes for any given case? Our teaching notes contain the writer’s learning outcomes, but the teacher will obviously tailor the learning outcomes to their own students and course goals.

There are many ways to assess the impact of cases on students. Measures of student outcomes usually focus on the aggregate results such as overall course retention rates, completion rates, attendance, and grade point averages and on individual student learning outcomes. Assessment of individual student learning outcomes covers a broad territory and may include cognitive outcomes (specific knowledge and skills) and affective measures (values, goals, motivation, attitudes, etc.)

Our survey of faculty using our Native cases suggests that faculty were interested in data on student motivation, perceptions, attitudes, motivation, attendance, student engagement, grades/completion rates, learning and clinical skills/tasks. They report assessing student learning with cases through a variety of different approaches including course evaluations, tests, case analysis, journals, peer evaluation forms, projects, end-of-case reflections, portfolios, and papers. The Field-tested Learning Assessment Guide (FLAG) website is a useful resource for a variety of classroom-based assessment resources. (See [www.flaguide.org](http://www.flaguide.org))

**Research on impact of cases**

For a summary of the research literature on the use of cases and other forms of problem-based learning, especially in the sciences, check out the website of the SUNY-University of Buffalo’s National Center for Case Teaching in Science at <http://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu>