Using Grading Strategies to Promote Student Learning

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Session Summary
Grading is usually not one of the most popular aspects of teaching, but it is critical to the teaching and learning process. In most courses, grading is the primary mechanism for giving students feedback, so that students can determine how their learning is progressing. Depending on the timing and frequency of grading, students can use this feedback to change their study habits or improve their performance. Grading is also important for the instructor as feedback on their effectiveness. If students are not doing well, that is an indication that you may need to change your teaching approach.

Key Concepts

- It is important to communicate your learning objectives and grading policies to your students. Your students will want to know what they are expected to learn, how you plan to grade their work, and how they can track their progress.

- Grading student work should be consistent and fair. Grading strategies will help you. Rubrics can help you communicate your expectations to students and make grading quicker and more productive.

- Feedback to students should be timely and frequent. Providing formative feedback to your students is very helpful to their success. Feedback should be specific, encouraging, and identify next steps for improvement.

Next Steps

- Review the NIU Grading Systems for Undergraduate and Graduate students in the NIU catalog.

- Think about how you will be providing feedback to your students through the grading process.

Resources
Office of Assessment Services Resources: niu.edu/assessment/Resources

Got Questions?
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View the presentation at facdev.niu.edu/tao16