

BACKWARD DESIGN:

Aligning Assessment & Learning Activities with Learning Outcomes

Use backward design to make sure that assessment and learning activities align with learning outcomes. Backward design requires that you start with the end in mind:

- First, ask yourself what do you want students to know or be able to do by the end of the course? (If this doesn't match with existing outcomes in your Course Profiles, it might be time to amend them).
- After identifying desired learning outcomes, consider how you will assess whether students have achieved those outcomes.
- After identifying assessment, consider what learning activities and materials will help students prepare and gain the necessary knowledge and skills to support them in reaching those outcomes.

As instructors we often use *forward* design - we start with learning activities, then move to assessment, and then consider outcomes. *Backward* design is considered a more purposeful, intentional, and effective way to design courses. For more information about backward design, have a read of [Backward Design](#) or listen to Erica Halverson talk about the [Backward Design Framework](#), or come and have a chat with the Learning Design Centre team.