

What is the difference between grades and assessment?

Grades	Assessment
Grades include learning, but may also include things like participation, attendance, effort, punctuality, completion of assignments, etc.	Assessment seeks to know only how well students have learned (knowledge, skills, attitudes/values)
Students may have great abilities, but not much motivation. Grades for these students will likely be lower than their skill level, particularly if students don't complete assignments.	Assessment looks at how well students have mastered or achieved the learning outcomes, regardless of grades
Some students have very poor skills, but work hard. Grades generally reflect this effort, in spite of lack of skill.	Hard working students may have good grades, but be unable to demonstrate mastery of the intended learning outcome
Grades often include scores on formative assessments as well as summative assessments.	Formative assessments are important to gauge progress and provide feedback for students to improve. Summative assessments are the final evidence of learning and outcome achievement.
Grades generally include student work at the beginning of the course as well as at the end.	Assessment uses the final, summative measures of knowledge, skills and values or beliefs as evidence of how well students have achieved the learning outcomes.
Scores are tallied across the whole semester for each student.	Scores on particular aspects or sections of rubrics, papers or tests are tallied for the whole class to ascertain achievement of each learning outcome
Grades do not provide sufficient detail to determine where improvements need to be made.	Assessment results are used to inform changes in curriculum, sequencing of content, learning resources, teaching methodology, or learning activities in order to improve learning.