

The Role of Assessment in Online Instruction

Panelists: Robert J. Hall, Texas A&M Univ., USA; G. Donald Allen, Texas A&M Univ., USA; Michael S. Pilant, Texas A&M Univ., USA; R. Arlen Strader, Texas A&M Univ., USA

Abstract: The topic for this panel discussion is how assessment can be used to inform instruction in an asynchronous environment. We will explore how technology can add to our understanding of human learning and performance and how carefully designed web-based supplemental study-aids can impact the relationship between confidence and "classroom" performance as measured by course exams. In that regard, we are interested in questions such as "How will performance and confidence metrics for a web-based course be assessed?" and "How can we determine the rate at which learning is taking place?" It is clear that some kind of assessment strategy is necessary in order to deliver material in the right sequence and at an appropriate rate. In this roundtable discussion, we will focus on four issues:

- 1) Assessment strategies.
- 2) Assessment of behavioral variables such as confidence, and motivation.
- 3) Cognitive foundations of assessment.
- 4) Practical aspects of implementing assessment strategies.