Guidelines for Developing Pre and Post Assessments

What are Pre-Post Assessments?
- Assessments administered upon an agreed upon “entry point” and “exit point.”
- These assessments can be standardized or locally-developed and test for broad general education learning or within a specific discipline or course.
- These might also be performance-based.

Constructing Pre-Post Assessments
- Determine what key ideas/concepts are being taught in your course.
- Establish your course learning outcomes and objectives.
  - Review the Course Outline of Record (COR) to help with this step
- Brainstorm 10-15 possible questions that would effectively test the student’s knowledge prior to the course and after the concepts have been presented.
  - This knowledge should be based on the learning outcomes and objectives you have established for the course
- Select a variety of five questions (multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, etc.) that will peak the students interest in excelling on the pre/post test and learning the material being taught.
  - A simple strategy to use is to reword your course level learning outcomes or objectives into questions.

Administering Pre and Post Assessments
- Pre-post assessments are relatively easy to administer.
- Remember these key steps:
  - Decide what you want to measure.
  - Select or develop the assessment tool you want to use to collect data.
  - Establish the pre-post assessment period.
  - Analyze and interpret the data
  - Report findings to your department
  - Use the data to improve and develop your program

Pre-Post Assessment Checklist
- Make sure the assessment is designed to be and is used as a pre-post assessment.
- Verify that the assessment is appropriate for your students, skill levels, backgrounds, etc.
- Check that the assessment measures what you want it to measure.
- Consider using the same assessment as your peers.
- Try to ensure that the conditions under which the student takes the pre-post assessments are as similar as possible.