

## B-1: Set big goals

**Determine whether your assessment measures mastery of the major components of the course** by asking the following questions.

- Does it cover the major components of the course (e.g. Cells, Heredity, Evolution and Diversity of Life, Interdependence of Life, Human Physiology, and Science Process for a high school biology course)?
  - Learn what the major components of your course are by prioritizing and internalizing learning goals and reading your state’s Department of Education website and available teacher’s or curriculum guides.
- Is it assessing students at a range of cognitive levels (e.g. application and analysis questions)?

If the answer to either of the above questions is “no,” then you will want to supplement your exam with additional assessments that do measure mastery of missing components.

Below is a table listing possible solutions to a couple of common challenges:

Problem	Solution
<p>You have one strong assessment that measures all but one or two key components of your course (e.g. a great geometry assessment that assesses most key components but does not require students to write a proof)</p>	<p>Add assessment items that cover those components. Consult with colleagues—veteran teachers, your PD and other professional resources—to find additional assessment items</p> <p>Often state assessments omit items related to open-ended mathematical problem-solving, science that requires lab work, historical research or literary analysis.</p>
<p>You teach multiple subjects and have an assessment that does not measure all subjects (e.g. you teach reading, math and writing and have a great reading assessment).</p>	<p>Add one or more assessments to ensure you are assessing each learning goal adequately. Consult with colleagues—veteran teachers, your PD and other professional resources—to find additional assessments.</p> <p>For example, if you are an elementary ELA teacher, you will probably need to have a growth assessment to measure your students’ reading. You will probably also need mastery assessments to measure students’ writing and math skills.</p>



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