

# Test Blue Prints!



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# What is a Test Blue Print?

- “... an outline of the test that lists the learning goals that students are to demonstrate on the test.” – Linda Suskie
- Make the Test Blue Print work for you to give you and your students the feedback you need to assess the students’ learning of those goals!





# What Does a Test Blue Print Show?

- It shows all the learning outcomes that the test addresses along with their weight on the overall test.
- It can show the type of test question (multiple choice, free response, etc.)
- It can show the cognitive level of the question (knowledge, comprehension, application, etc.) – see my example.
- It can show example items (very helpful if the test blue print is shared among colleagues for creating common finals) – see Lone Star Math 0308 example.

# Linda Suskie's 4 Steps for Creating a Test Blue Print (pgs 167 – 170)

- Step 1: List the major areas the test will cover
- Step 2: Allocate fractions of the test to each of those areas to reflect the relative importance of that area (assign points or number the questions)
- Step 3: Within each area, list the learning goals that you want to assess – use action verbs
- Step 4: Spread the points or test questions within the area among the learning goals within that area in proportion to their importance.



# Ideas for Using Test Blue Prints

- Group the items with a common learning goal and disaggregate the results to get feedback on how students are learning that goal. Give the students the information and use the information to re-think how that goal was taught.
- If items were tied to cognitive levels (knowledge, comprehension, analysis, etc.) then give students feedback on how well they are doing for each level.  
<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/RevisedBlooms1.html>
- Use the test blue print to aid in reporting “findings” for program learning outcomes on program assessment files.

