

Assessment Methods

Method	Description	Direct or Indirect Data
Alumni Survey	Surveying program alumni can provide information about program satisfaction, preparation (transfer or workforce), employment status, skills for success. Surveys can ask alumni to identify what should be changed, altered, maintained, improved, or expanded.	Indirect
Capstone Project or Course	A capstone project or course integrates knowledge, concepts, and skills that students are to have acquired during the course of their study. Capstones provide a means to assess student achievement across a discipline.	Direct
Certification or Licensure Exam	These standardized tests are developed by outside, professional organization to assess general knowledge in a discipline.	Direct
Competitions (Juried)	External reviewers score, judge the performance, work, etc. of students	Direct
Course Evaluation Survey	Course evaluations assess student experience and satisfaction with an individual course and are generally administered at or near the end of the semester. They provide the faculty, department, and institution with student perceptions of the classroom aspect of their educational experience.	Indirect
Embedded Techniques	Embedded assessment techniques utilize existing student course work as both a grading instrument as well as data in the assessment of SLO.	Direct
Employer Survey	Programs can survey employers to determine if their graduates are satisfactorily skilled. Additional information to collect can include on the job skills, field specific information, etc.	Indirect
Entrance/Exit Interviews	Interviews are conducted with students when they enter college and when they leave – either through graduation or early departure. These interviews can be designed to measure SLO, but can also be used to learn about students' perceptions, gather feedback, on various college services, activities, etc.	Direct
Exit Exam/ Comprehensive Test	A comprehensive exam given near the end of the student's academic career (usually during the final semester prior to graduation). The exam is generally given to determine a student's acquisition and application of a particular type or form of knowledge or skill, as well as the ability to integrate knowledge from various disciplines. The exam can be written, oral, or a combination.	Direct
Focus Groups	A series of structured discussions with students who are asked a series of open-ended questions designed to collect data about beliefs, attitudes, and experiences.	Indirect
Graduate Survey	An assessment of a student's overall satisfaction with his or her collegiate experience and learning	Indirect
Institutional Data	Review both program and student data that is collected at the institutional level. Data can include program enrollment, retention, student GPA, etc.	Indirect
Locally Developed Tests	A test that is developed within the institution to be used internally. The test is typically administered to a representative	Direct

	sample in order to develop local norms and standards	
"Maps" and/or Matrices	A map/matrix is a grid of rows and columns that organizes information that can be used for assessment purposes by summarizing relationships between goals, SLO, courses, syllabus outcomes, course work, assessment methods, etc. Maps/matrices can be used to review curriculum, select assessment methods, make comparisons, etc.	Indirect
Observations	Information can be collected while observing "events" such as classes, social gatherings, activities, group work, study sessions, etc. Observation can provide information on student behaviors and attitudes	Indirect
Performance	Students can be evaluated on participation in campus and/or community events, volunteer work, presentations, clinical, internships, musical or art performances, etc. The performance of students is rated/scored using a rubric/scoring guide.	Direct
Portfolio	Students' work is collected throughout a program which is assessed by faculty using a common scoring guide/rubric. Portfolios may contain research papers, reports, tests, exams, case studies, video, personal essays, journals, self-evaluations, exercises, etc.	Direct
Pre & Post Tests	Typically an exam is administered at the beginning and at the end of a course or program in order to determine the progress of student learning	Direct
Reflective Student Essays	Reflective essays can be used as an assessment method to determine student understanding of course content and/or issues as well as students' opinions and perceptions	Direct/ Indirect
Rubrics/ Scoring Guides	Rubrics/scoring guides outline identified criteria for successfully completing an assignment and establish levels for meeting the criteria. They can be used to score everything from essays to performances.	Direct
Standardized Tests	A test that is developed outside the institution for use by a wide group of students using national or regional norms	Direct
SWOT Analysis	A facilitated analysis of the internal strengths & weaknesses of the course, program, department as well as the external threats & opportunities	Indirect
Syllabus Review	Reviewing a syllabus involves determining if the course is meeting the goals and outcomes that have been established	Indirect