Assessment Methods

Student Learning Outcomes - outcomes that assess what students should know or be able to do once the program is completed.

Program Outcomes - outcomes that provide indirect measures of program quality or the degree to which administrative goals are achieved.

Outcomes are assessed using direct or indirect measures. More than one assessment method should be used to assess each outcome.

Direct measures

Direct assessment methods measure what the student has learned and the work completed throughout the matriculation of the program.

Examples of direct measurement methods:

1. Standardized testing
2. Portfolios
3. Capstone courses/projects
4. Performance, products, creations
5. Case studies
6. Embedded assessments
7. Locally developed tests
8. Licensing or certification exams

Indirect measures

Indirect assessment methods measure a person’s perception, attitude, or experience about the program.

Examples of indirect measurement methods:

1. Student surveys
2. Exit interviews
3. Alumni surveys
4. National surveys
5. Focus groups
6. Employer surveys
7. Retention rates
8. Graduation rates

Note: The assessment methods listed above should not be considered as an exhaustive list.