

Student Learning Outcome Assessment

Section III. Measuring and Evaluating Student Learning

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Direct and Indirect Assessment Techniques

Direct Assessment Techniques

- Course assignments
- Special projects
- Essays
- Brief in-class writing assignments
- Course journals
- Double-entry journals
- Directed paraphrase
- Portfolios of work
- Examinations
- Standardized tests
- Pre- and post-tests
- Performance on licensure or professional exams
- National exams assessing subject matter knowledge
- Video and audiotape evaluations
- Oral presentations
- Field reports
- Exhibits
- Posters
- Performances

Indirect Assessment Techniques

- Student surveys
- Student interviews
- Focus group interviews
- Reflective essays written by students
- Process analysis essays
- Graduate follow-up surveys
- Alumni surveys
- Tracking alumni honors or achievements
- Student scholarly achievement
- Performance in graduate school
- Employer surveys
- Internship evaluations
- Job placement of graduating students
- Analysis of grade distribution
- Curriculum and syllabus analysis

Selecting Methods of Assessment

1. **Thinking critically and making judgments**

(Developing arguments, reflecting, evaluating, assessing, judging)

- Essay
- Report
- Journal
- Letter of advice to . . . (about policies, issues involving course content . . .)
- Present a case for an interest group
- Prepare a committee briefing paper for a specific meeting
- Book review (or article) for a particular journal
- Write a newspaper article
- Comment on an article's theoretical perspective

2. **Solving problems and developing plans**

(Identifying, posing, or defining problems; analyzing data; designing experiments; applying information)

- Problem scenario
- Group work
- Work-based problem
- Draft a research bid
- Analyze a case
- Conference paper

3. **Performing procedures and demonstrating techniques**

(Computation, taking readings, using equipment, following procedures, following protocols, carrying out instructions)

- Demonstration
- Role play
- Make a video (write script and produce/make video)
- Produce a poster
- Lab report
- Prepare an illustrated manual on using pieces of equipment for specified audience
- Critique of real or simulated professional practice

4. **Managing and developing oneself**

(Working co-operatively, working independently, learning independently, being self-directed, managing time or tasks, organizational skills)

- Journal
- Portfolio
- Learning contract
- Group work

5. Accessing and managing information

(Researching, investigating, interpreting, organizing information, reviewing and paraphrasing information, collecting data, searching and managing information sources, observing and interpreting)

- Annotated bibliography
- Course project
- Research paper
- Thesis
- Applied task
- Applied problem

6. Demonstrating knowledge and understanding

(Recalling, describing, reporting, recounting, recognizing, identifying, relating and interrelating)

- Written examination
- Oral examination
- Essay
- Report
- Devise an encyclopedia entry
- Write a response to a client's question
- Short answer responses on tests

7. Designing, creating, performing

(Imagining, visualizing, designing, producing, creating, innovating, performing)

- Portfolio
- Performance
- Presentation
- Response to a hypothetical
- Assigned projects

8. Communicating

(One and two-way communication, group communication, written and verbal communication, arguing, advocating, interviewing, negotiating, presenting)

- Written presentation (essay, report, reflective paper, etc.)
- Oral presentation
- Group work
- Discussion/debate/role play
- Video presentation
- Critique of real or professional practice

“When choosing methods it is important to offer variety to learners in the way they demonstrate their learning, and to help them to develop a well-rounded set of abilities by the time they graduate.”

Opportunities for Measuring Student Learning Outcomes

- Assignments embedded in the course
 - Written or oral
 - Individual or group
 - Artifact or performance
- Mid-term and final examinations
- Capstone projects
- Thesis/dissertation
- Internships

Qualities of Effective Assessment Techniques

- Generative: provides useful information
- Productive: leads to improvement
- Varied
- Manageable
- Elegant
- Informed and thoughtful
- Continuous