

## Definition of Terms

Due to the diversity of interpretation of assessment terminology, Wayne State College has accepted the following definitions to avoid misunderstanding.

**Direct assessment:** assessment based on an analysis of student behaviors or products in which students demonstrate how well they have mastered learning objectives

**Indirect assessment:** assessment based on an analysis of reported perceptions about student mastery of learning objectives; the perceptions may be self-reports by students, or they may be made by others, such as alumni, fieldwork supervisors, employers, or faculty

**Mission:** a holistic vision of the values and philosophy of the college and/or program

**Objectives:** clear, concise statements that describe the intended abilities, knowledge, values, and attitudes that students are expected to achieve through their college experience

**Outcomes:** statements that describe significant and essential learning that learners have achieved, and can reliably demonstrate at the end of a course or program

**Program assessment:** an on-going, systematic process designed to monitor and improve student learning

**Program goals:** broad, general statements about knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values expected in graduates

**Program mission:** a broad statement of what the program is, what it does, and for whom it does it. It should provide a clear description of the purpose of the program and the learning environment. It should be aligned with the department and college missions.