

WHAT STRATEGIES (MEASURES) HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL EVIDENCE ABOUT STUDENT LEARNING?

It is not just data; it is quantitative and/or qualitative. It is information that supports a claim; answers a question; leads to knowledge; stimulates analysis; suggests action.

Direct Evidence: Actual student work...

- o Project or activity from the capstone experience
- o Portfolio
- o Standardized tests (e.g. - Major Field Achievement Test, Test of Critical Thinking Ability, Academic Profile, or the Watson-Glasser Critical Thinking Appraisal)
- o Performance on national licensure, certification, or professional exams.
(Summaries lacking a breakdown by area are of limited value in identifying areas of programs that need to be strengthened.)
- o Locally developed tests (when validated and authenticated)
- o Essay questions with blind scoring
- o Reflection papers; Journaling
- o Qualitative internal or external juried reviews of comprehensive senior projects; external reviews of exhibitions and performances in the arts
- o External evaluation of performance during internship or student teaching.
- o Oral presentation - live, videotape or audiotape

Indirect Evidence: Report of perception about learning...

- o Alumni, employer, and student surveys
- o Instructor/faculty survey
- o Exit interviews
- o Focus groups
- o Graduate follow-up studies
- o External or peer review

Supportive Evidence: Typically considered non-measures of learning; Administrative information; Inputs; Other curricular and administrative documents ...

- o Enrollment trends; Retention and transfer studies
- o Time to degree
- o SAT, ACT; GRE, GMAT scores
- o GPA
- o Graduation rates and transfer rates
- o Job placement data; Graduate school placement rate
- o Student Publications; Research presentations; Honors
- o Student participation rates in faculty research, publications and conference presentations
- o Curriculum analysis (Course prerequisites; credit hours)
- o Syllabus analysis (Learning experiences)
- o Course taking pattern (Transcript audit)
- o Faculty/student ratios
- o Percentage of students studying abroad
 - Diversity of the student body
 - Program documents, publications and/or website

Examples of Methods of Assessing Student Learning Outcomes

Direct Assessment Methods

1. ETS Major Field Tests
2. Capstone Courses
3. Grading Using Scoring Rubrics
4. Case Studies
5. Licensing or Certification Exams
6. Student Portfolios
7. Senior Research Projects
8. Senior Recitals
9. Locally Developed Tests
10. Course Embedded Assessment
11. Evaluations of Interns
12. External Examiners or Reviewers
13. GRE Subject Tests
14. Student presentations of research to professional organizations

Indirect Assessment Methods

1. Student Perception of Learning Surveys (e.g. IDEA, NSSE)
2. Exit Interviews
3. Alumni Surveys
4. Analysis of Course Syllabi
5. Focus Groups
6. Employer Surveys