

Assessment: Talking the Talk

(Terms You Should Know)

- Program: a collection of courses that culminate in a certificate or degree, or a group of services such as advising, Human Resources, and library services.
- Learning Outcomes Assessment: Measuring what is stated that the student will learn.
- Evidence-Based Decision: The result of using data and dialogue to reach a conclusion that benefits students
- Evidence: analyzed and interpreted data which is used to draw conclusions and make decisions that impact unit processes, curriculum and student learning
- Assessment Method: A process employed to gather data.
- Formative Assessment: The gathering of information about student learning-during the progression of a course or program and usually repeatedly-to improve the learning of those students.
- Summative Assessment: The gathering of information at the conclusion of a course, program, or undergraduate career to improve learning or to meet accountability demands. When used for improvement, it impacts the next cohort of students taking the course or program. Examples: examining student final exams in a course to see if certain specific areas of the curriculum were understood less well than others
- Outcomes: Specific and measurable statements that are derived from goals or curricula and articulate what students should be able to do as at the end of a unit, activity, program, or course.
- Template: A model that serves as a master or pattern for reports and plans

- Reliability: the consistency of scores across evaluators, or assessments, over time.
- Validity: assurance that an assessment measures what is supposed to measure (use of microscope)
- Alternative assessment: any assessment in which students create a response to a question.
- Authentic assessment: tasks that elicit demonstrations of knowledge, skills or beliefs in ways that resemble "real life" as closely as possible
- Standards: statements of what should be taught, levels of achievement, degrees of proficiencies, policies and procedures
- Benchmark: comparison points for standards
- Assessment: the act of collecting information about individuals or groups in order to understand them and/or to provide feedback to them
- Evaluation: a judgment regarding the quality or worth of assessment information
- Direct assessment: requires students to display their knowledge and skills as they respond to an assessment instrument or perform a skill
- Indirect assessment: asks for student reflections, opinions, or beliefs
- Gap analysis: determines the variance between what a student knows or can do and what they are required to know and do
- Triangulation: Using more than one kind of assessment to measure outcomes and to make decisions
- Design out: Designing curriculum, instruction and assessment with the student as the central focus on, Poster: a self-explanatory professional presentation of a piece of work by a unit undertaken to accomplish a plan to improve student learning