

Methods of Assessment

Direct Methods

- Require students to display their knowledge and skills as they respond to the instrument itself. (Palomba, C and Banta, T, "The Essentials of Successful Assessment" in Assessment Essentials: Planning, Implementing, and Improving Assessment in Higher Education, Jossey-Bass. 1999.)
- Look at student work products or performances that demonstrate level of learning. (Overview of Types of Measures, Margaret Kasimatis)
- Are tangible, visible, self-explanatory evidence of exactly what students have and haven't learned. (Suskie, L. "Assessing Student Learning: A Common Sense Guide," Anker Publishing, 2004)

Examples of Direct Methods:

- Locally developed tests/test questions
- Essays/Papers
- Lab work
- Exam questions
- Capstone projects
- Exhibits
- Performances/Presentations
- Portfolios of student work
- Comprehensive exams
- Standardized tests
- Certificate exams
- Analysis of CSLO data from courses mapped to PSLOs

Indirect Methods

- Ask students to reflect on their learning rather than demonstrate it. (Palomba, C and Banta, T, "The Essentials of Successful Assessment" in Assessment Essentials: Planning, Implementing, and Improving Assessment in Higher Education, Jossey-Bass. 1999.)
- Capture students' perceptions of their learning and the educational environment that supports learning. (Overview of Types of Measures, Margaret Kasimatis)
- Provide signs that students are probably learning, but the evidence of exactly what they are learning is less clear. (Suskie, L. "Assessing Student Learning: A Common Sense Guide," Anker Publishing, 2004)

Examples of Indirect Methods:

- Surveys
- Exit interviews
- Focus groups
- Job placement/program completion rates
- Course evaluations

Adapted from:

https://www.nvcc.edu/assessment/_docs/PS4.methodsforassessingSLOs1009.pdf