

Direct Measures

Direct assessment measures require individuals or entities to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and/or a behavior that reflects achievement of the stated goal.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Standardized exams
- Locally developed exams
- Questions embedded into regular course exams
- Review by an external examiner
- Oral exams
- Minute papers
- Portfolios (evaluated with rubrics)
- Behavioral observations
- Simulations
- Project evaluations
- Performance appraisals
- Think-alouds
- Concept maps

Operational Outcomes

- Retention rate
- Graduation rate
- Degree Attainment
- Cost
- Materials and equipment
- Cost per student
- Faculty qualifications
- Faculty productivity
- Reduction in errors
- Audit by external evaluator

Indirect Measures

Indirect assessment measures rely on individual perceptions to determine if a goal/objective has been achieved.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Written surveys and questionnaires:
 - Student perception
 - Alumni perception
 - Employer perception of program
- Exit and other interviews
- Focus groups
- Grades in courses
- Student records

Operational Outcomes

- Written surveys and questionnaires:
 - Stakeholder perception
 - Students
 - Administration and staff
 - Faculty
 - Employers
- Interviews
- Focus groups

Suitable Methods for Various Activities:

When considering assessment methods, it is particularly useful to think first about what qualities or abilities you are seeking to engender in the learners.

1. Thinking critically and making judgments

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

- Essay
- Report
- Journal
- Book review (or article) for a particular journal
- Comment on an article's theoretical perspective

2. Solving problems and developing plans

(Identifying problems, posing problems, defining problems, analyzing data, reviewing, designing experiments, planning, applying information)

- Problem scenario
- Group Work
- Work-based problem
- Analyze a case

3. Performing procedures and demonstrating techniques

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

- Demonstration
- Role Play
- Make a video (write script and produce/make a video)
- Produce a poster
- Lab report
- Prepare an illustrated manual on using the equipment, for a particular audience
- Observation of real or simulated professional practice

4. Managing and developing oneself

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

- 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
- Project
- Dissertation
- Applied task
- Applied problem

6. Demonstrating knowledge and understanding

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

- Written examination
- Oral examination
- Essay
- Report
- Short answer questions: True/False/ Multiple Choice Questions (paper-based or computer-aided-assessment)

7. Designing, creating, performing

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

- Portfolio
- Performance
- Presentation
- Hypothetical
- Projects

8. Communicating

(One and two-way communication; communication within a group, verbal, written and non-verbal communication.

Arguing, describing, advocating, interviewing, negotiating, presenting; using specific written forms)

- Written presentation (essay, report, reflective paper etc.)
- Oral presentation
- Group work
- Discussion/debate/role play
- Presentation to camera
- Observation of real or simulated professional practice