

## Common Language for Assessment

**Assessment**—The systematic collection, review, and use of information about educational programs and other support programs undertaken for the purpose of program improvement, student learning, and development

**Assessment Plan** - A document which identifies expected outcomes for a program and outlines how and when the identified outcomes will be assessed

**Assessment Report**— An annual document, based on the Assessment Plan that presents and explains assessment results and shows how assessment results are being used to improve the program.

**Assessment Method** - A process employed to gather assessment information

**Direct Methods** – Processes employed to assess student learning directly by requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and skills

**Indirect Methods** - Processes employed to assess a program and/or student learning indirectly by gathering indirect information related to student learning or program success. Examples of indirect methods include questionnaires which ask students to reflect on their learning and satisfaction surveys of employers.

**Mission Statement** – A concise statement outlining the purpose of a program

**Outcomes** – A specific, measurable and/or identifiable learning goal focusing on the end result of learning, rather than the process

**Student Learning Outcomes** – An identified action that a student is expected to demonstrate in terms of knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes upon completion of an educational program

**Other Program Outcomes** – Other program outcomes not directly related to student learning, such as student/faculty ratio or program completion rate

**Curriculum Map** - A matrix representation of a program's learning outcomes showing where the outcomes are taught within the program

**Achievement Target** – a target, benchmark, or value that will represent success at achieving a given outcome

**Findings** – Results (data and/or information) gathered from assessment measures

**Analysis of Findings** – Examination of the data gathered during the assessment cycle, including reflective consideration about what actions, if any, should be taken

**Action Plans** – Actions taken to improve the program or assessment process based on the analysis of results

