

Carleton College ° Division of Student Life ° Assessment Team ° Shared Assessment Terms

Overarching Terms

Term	Working Definition	Source
Assessment	The systematic process of determining educational objectives and gathering, using and analyzing information about student learning outcomes to make decisions about programs, individual student progress or accountability	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Accountability	Use of results for program continuance/discontinuance; the public reporting of student, program or institutional data to justify decisions or policies; using results to determine funding	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Accreditation	A certification awarded by an external, recognized organization, that the institution or program meets certain requirements overall or in a particular discipline	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Culture of assessment	A culture of assessment exists in an organization/institution where faculty, staff, and administrators care to know what assessment results they produce and how these results relate to desired institutional outcomes and learning outcomes for students, their parents, and other stakeholders.	https://www.umes.edu/cms300uploadedFiles/CREATING%20A%20CULTURE%20OF%20ASSESSMENT-Fin.pdf
Dashboard indicators	Dashboard indicators consist of a variety of measures that generally are related to the strategic mission of the institution or to the specific office developing the dashboard. The first step in creating a dashboard, the selection of the indicators, is the most critical component. Indicators should be 1) easy to understand, 2) relevant to the user, 3) strategic, 4) quantitative, 5) up-to-date with current information, and 6) not used in isolation. And, of course, the data underlying the indicators must be reliable.	https://www.agb.org/trusteeship/2011/januaryfebruary/the-most-common-performance-indicators-for-institutions-and-their
Stakeholder	Persons involved with or invested in the testing process, e.g. test takers, administrators, parents, and teachers/instructors	http://www.cal.org/flad/tutorial/resources/7keyterms.html

Functional Terms

Term	Working Definition	Source
Outcomes	Assessment results: the specific knowledge, skills or developmental attributes that students <u>actually develop</u> through their college experience;	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Objectives	Expected or intended student outcomes: the specific knowledge, skills or attitudes that students are <u>expected</u> to achieve through their college experience;	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Survey instrument/tool	A survey instrument is a tool for consistently obtaining data from respondents. For most social and behavioral surveys , the instrument involves a questionnaire that provides a script for presenting a standard set of questions and response options.	http://www.esourceresearch.org/eSourceBook/SampleSurveys/6DevelopingaSurveyInstrument/tabid/484/Default.aspx
Rubric	A scoring tool that lists the criteria for a piece of work, or “what counts” (for example, purpose, organization and mechanics are often what count in a piece of writing); it also articulates gradations of quality for each criterion, from excellent to poor.	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Quantitative	Data in which the values of a variable differ in amount rather than in kind (quality)	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Qualitative	Data in which the values of a variable differ in kind (quality) rather than in amount	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Anecdotal	Information that is not necessarily true or reliable because it is based on personal accounts rather than facts or research	Dictionary definition
Post test	The measurement of a dependent variable, which occurs after an intervention, usually for the purpose of comparing to a pretest measure on the same dependent variable	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/
Pre test	The measurement of a dependent variable prior to an intervention, usually for the purpose of comparing to a posttest measurement of the same dependent variable	https://studentaffairs.wustl.edu/about-us/assessment/getting-started/glossary-of-assessment-terms/

