

## A First Step in Linking Learning Outcomes to Assessment Activities

**There should be a direct link between assessments, learning outcomes and learning activities.**

Student learning outcomes are a key foundation of successful assessment; they drive and focus assessment. Therefore, assessment activities should align with learning outcomes—should go hand-in-hand with outcomes—should clearly answer the question: how can we check that this learning outcome is being met?

**How to ensure a good fit between Learning Outcomes and Assessment Activities**

A good first step in finding a good fit is to hold a faculty meeting on outcomes assessment in your program. Have faculty members bring syllabi from the core courses in the program. As a department:

- (1) Identify (or review) the student learning outcomes for your program.
- (2) Identify the courses in which each outcome could be appropriately measured using existing class assignments.
- (3) Choose the course-embedded assignments to use as assessment activities.

In the end, this faculty-driven exercise should result in something like this:

		Student Learning Outcomes Undergraduate Political Science <i>Students will be able to. . . . .</i>				
Course in the major	Existing assessment activity (with potential for use in program SLO assessment)	<i>critically analyze political information given an issue important in modern U.S. society.</i>	<i>differentiate the theoretical, structural, historical, and scientific dimensions of politics.</i>	<i>communicate effectively orally and in writing.</i>	<i>demonstrate sensitivity and tolerance of racial, cultural, and other human differences.</i>	<i>demonstrate commitment to being a politically responsible citizen.</i>
PSci 180	Test (Pre?)	X	X			
PSci 310	Research paper		X	X		
PSci 460	Test (Post?)	X	X			
PSci 493	Student Evaluation of Internship				X	X
PSci 498	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio</li> <li>• Oral Presentation</li> </ul>			X	X	X



**Still need help? Contact us:**  
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