Rubrics are tools for scoring complex student work. A rubric:
- is used to directly measure students’ knowledge/abilities in assessment activities such as research papers, projects, performances, or presentations.
- provides feedback on areas in which students demonstrate excellence or need improvement.
- can change a qualitative judgment into a quantitative score.
- is built from student learning criteria that the faculty values in the assessment activity.
- is used to measure learning outcomes in an assessment activity; 1 activity = one rubric.
- measures one or more student learning outcomes.
- AAC&U VALUE Rubrics (http://assessment.arizona.edu/tools)

Survey results are useful indirect measures of learning outcomes. Summarize the ratings in tables identifying the questions and the proportion of students’ or employer’s selections for each rating.

Focus groups, interviews, and open-ended survey questions are useful data collection tools in assessment. These tools can be used to indirectly measure learning outcomes. Summarize common responses with percentages, if possible.

Final grades and exam grades are not good data for assessment of student learning outcomes in your program. The grades by themselves say little about what a student knows or is able to do. However, scores on subsets of questions, from existing exams, can be used if the subset of questions actually measures a student learning outcome in the program.

When done correctly, this is a direct measure of learning outcomes.

Here are some great resources for assessment:
- http://assessment.arizona.edu/tools
- Office of Instruction and Assessment Integrated Learning Center 1500 E. University Blvd. Bldg. 70 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721 Phone: 520.621.7788 Fax: 520.626.8220 http://oia.arizona.edu