

# Assessment Mentoring Program

## Topics and Definitions

### Direct/Indirect Measures

Direct measures are samples of students' work on tasks that assess knowledge, skills, and values, such as test results or papers, whereas indirect measures are the perceptions of how the student performs in the areas of knowledge, skills, and values, such as surveys of how a student perceives their learning.

### Reflection and Community Engagement

Reflection is an active thinking and feeling process by which students make sense of what they observe and experience in learning experiences, for example, in community engagement experiences. It is the thoughtful examination and analysis of the meaning of experiences through the lenses of course learning objectives, personal, professional and community values and larger social concerns. As John Dewey stated, reflection is the "active, persistent and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds that support it and the further conclusions to which it tends" (1910, p. 7). Examples of student reflective learning activities are: critical incident papers, facilitated discussions and blogs, portfolios, reflective journals, peer and/or community debriefings, storytelling, presentations, concept maps, metaphor or imagery of experiences. *(Dewey, T. (1910). How we think. Boston, MA: D. C. Heath and Co.)*

### Triangulation with University Data Sources

Triangulation with university data sources is the process of combining available university data with course, program, and/or department data to draw conclusions.

### Course-Level Assessment

Course-level assessment occurs when an instructor or program wishes to determine whether students have achieved the educational outcomes of a course. Rubrics or exam item analyses can be developed, based on the educational outcomes of the course, to enable instructors to judge whether students have mastered the educational outcomes of the course.

### Program Assessment

Program assessment occurs when program faculty wish to determine whether their students have achieved the educational outcomes of their program.