

“Direct” vs. “Indirect”
evidence of student learning

Quiz Time

“D” direct?

or

“I” indirect?

Example

1. I can name the capital of Alaska.


Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree


Strongly Disagree

Indirect
evidence of
knowledge



2. The capital of Alaska is _____

Direct evidence of
knowledge



Indirect & Direct

- “Indirect” evidence of student learning
 - Student perceptions, self reports
 - Can reveal *why* and *how* students learned – or didn’t learn
- “Direct” evidence of student learning
 - Student products, behaviors
 - Reveals *what* students know and can do

“Indirect”

Common instruments for data collection

- Survey
- Focus group
- Interview

“Direct”

Common instruments for data collection

- Course or program assignment
- Course or program exam
- Senior project, thesis, dissertation

Necessary → direct

Insufficient → indirect

Your fall 2013 assessment project:

1. Which outcome(s) might you assess?
2. What type of direct evidence is appropriate?

TIP: Use the SLO verb to help find an appropriate data collection instrument

“recognize” = multiple choice test

“analyze and summarize data” = policy paper

Data Collection Instruments/Methods: Examples of *Direct* and *Indirect* Evidence

"D" direct or "I" indirect?	Data Collection Instrument/ Method	Description
	Culminating Project (e.g., capstone project, senior thesis or exhibit)	In their senior year, students integrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the program to produce a piece of work that demonstrates achievement.
	Embedded Assignments	Assignments completed as a regular part of a course are used for course grades <i>and</i> program assessment.
	Embedded Test or Quiz	Questions intended to assess SLOs are incorporated into course tests or quizzes. Results are used for course grades <i>and</i> program assessment.
	Focus groups	Facilitated small-group discussions during which students describe their perspectives on topics such as program quality, courses offerings, academic experiences.
	Interviews	One-on-one dialog with a student to determine his/her perspective on topics such as academic experience, growth and change, and immediate as well as future plans.
	Observations	Student performance of a task or activity is rated by an unobtrusive observer, often using an "observation checklist."
	Portfolio	A collection of a student's work that is used to demonstrate student growth and/or showcases achievement; often includes the student's reflections on the collection.
	Pre-test/Post-test	A test administered at the beginning and again at the end of a program in order to determine change or growth.
	Professional Licensure Exam (e.g., Bar exam, Praxis teaching exam)	An exam required by the state or federal government: passing the exam is required before operating as a provider in a particular field.
	Standardized Test	A test that is administered, scored, and interpreted in a standard manner; often commercially developed and administered to many (e.g., students across the nation).
	Survey (e.g., eCAFÉ, alumni survey)	<p>Students are asked for their opinions on topics such as instructor performance, course relevance, classroom environment, and knowledge gained and/or skills learned.</p> <p>Alumni report their perceptions of topics such as overall educational experience, program quality, and program relevance to career/personal life.</p>