

## Assessment of Individual Learning Outcomes in Courses

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## Issues Related to GE Assessment

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- Are student learning objectives articulated for General Education?
  - Are course student learning objectives linked to GE learning objectives?
  - Are there specific instructional activities related to GE-linked course objectives?
  - Are there specific assessment activities related to GE-linked course objectives?
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- Student learning objective articulated in the Core Curriculum for Written Literacy—Upper Division:
  - Students will be able to articulate observations, express ideas, and formulate arguments within the relevant discipline
- Course student learning objective linked to Core Curriculum learning objective:
  - Students will be able to write research reports in APA style



- Specific instructional activities related to CC - linked course objective:
  - Students will work in groups to apply the APA style manual to a set of simulated research report sections created to include APA style violations. Whole-class discussion will ensure that all violations have been identified
  - Students will conduct a research project and will iterate drafts of the sections of their research reports based on peer feedback collected on checklists specifying APA style requirements



- Specific assessment activities related to CC -linked course objective:
  - Objective exam questions on the second quiz and the final will examine student knowledge of APA style guidelines
  - The grade for student research reports will include a measurement of conformity to APA style.

## Issues Related to GE Assessment

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- Student learning objective articulated for General Education is general enough to apply to any discipline
- Course student learning objective is clearly linked to GE objective and discipline-specific
- Instructional activities include repeated practice and feedback under different conditions
- Assessment activities that directly assess GE-linked course objective illustrate use of different measures and are embedded in graded coursework

Example activities and assessments from Allen, M. (2004). *Assessing academic programs in higher education*. Bolton, MA: Anker.

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- Aids in writing student learning outcomes:
  - Language template: “A student will be able to ...,” “Under condition A, the student will be able to B, at level C according to criteria D for standard E
  - Frameworks for types and levels of learning outcomes, e.g. revised two-dimensional taxonomy of educational objectives (Krathwohl, 2002)

- Aids in selecting and aligning instructional activities and assessment activities:
  - Research-based principles of learning, e.g. Halpern, D. and Hakel, M. (Eds.) (2002). *Applying the Science of Learning to University Teaching and Beyond: New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, No. 89. Jossey-Bass.
  - Templates for mapping program objectives, course objectives, instructional activities, and assessment activities

## Issues of Reliability and Validity

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- Reliability means there is consistency in measurement or observation
    - Consistency in test items and assignment guidelines
    - Inter-rater reliability in use of rubrics
  - Validity means that the instrument measures what it purports to measure
    - Face validity
    - Content validity
    - Construct validity
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## Assessment for deep learning

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- Strong formative assessment
    - Corrective feedback
    - with explanation and
    - recommended action for improvement
  - Deep learning as deep vs surface approach to learning and as learning that lasts—an integration of knowledge, development, and action
    - Research learning
    - Service learning
    - Teaching learning
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## More issues

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- Campus politics
    - Nowhere without friends in power
    - Try to restructure when opportunity
  - Action strategies
    - Hitch your wagon to whatever is moving
    - Top-down, bottom-up, end-around
  - Scalability
    - Sampling when you must
    - Technology when you can
  - Sustainability
    - Small but systematic steps (eg multi-year plan)
    - Institutionalization of formalized processes (eg program review)
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