

## EXAMPLES OF EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING

*C = evidence suitable for course-level as well as program-level student learning*

### Direct (Clear and Compelling) Evidence of What Students Are Learning

- Ratings of student skills by field experience supervisors
- Scores and pass rates on appropriate licensure/ certification exams (e.g., Praxis, NLN) or other published tests (e.g., Major Field Tests) that assess key learning outcomes
- “Capstone” experiences such as research projects, presentations, theses, dissertations, oral defenses, exhibitions, or performances, scored using a rubric
- Other written work, performances, or presentations, scored using a rubric (C)
- Portfolios of student work (C)
- Scores on locally-designed multiple choice and/or essay tests such as final examinations in key courses, qualifying examinations, and comprehensive examinations, accompanied by test “blueprints” describing what the tests assess (C)
- Score gains between entry and exit on published or local tests or writing samples (C)
- Employer ratings of employee skills
- Observations of student behavior (e.g., presentations, group discussions), undertaken systematically and with notes recorded systematically
- Summaries/analyses of electronic discussion threads (C)
- “Think-alouds” (C)
- Classroom response systems (clickers) (C)
- Knowledge maps (C)
- Feedback from computer simulated tasks (e.g., information on patterns of actions, decisions, branches) (C)
- Student reflections on their values, attitudes and beliefs, if developing those are intended outcomes of the course or program (C)

### Indirect Evidence of Student Learning (Signs that Students Are Probably Learning, But Exactly What or How Much They Are Learning is Less Clear)

- Course grades (C)
- Assignment grades, if not accompanied by a rubric or scoring guide (C)
- For four-year programs, admission rates into graduate programs and graduation rates from those programs
- For two-year programs, admission rates into four-year institutions and graduation rates from those institutions
- Quality/reputation of graduate and four-year programs into which alumni are accepted
- Placement rates of graduates into appropriate career positions and starting salaries
- Alumni perceptions of their career responsibilities and satisfaction
- Student ratings of their knowledge and skills and reflections on what they have learned in the course or program (C)
- Questions on end-of-course student evaluation forms that ask about the course rather than the instructor (C)
- Student/alumni satisfaction with their learning, collected through surveys, exit interviews, or focus groups
- Voluntary gifts from alumni and employers
- Student participation rates in faculty research, publications and conference presentations
- Honors, awards, and scholarships earned by students and alumni

### Evidence of Learning Processes that Promote Student Learning (Insights into Why Students Are or Aren’t Learning)

- Transcripts, catalog descriptions, and course syllabi, analyzed for evidence of course or program coherence, opportunities for active and collaborative learning, etc. (C)
- Logs maintained by students documenting time spent on course work, interactions with faculty and other students, nature and frequency of library use, etc. (C)
- Interviews and focus groups with students, asking why they achieve some learning goals well and others less well (C)
- Many of Angelo and Cross’s *Classroom Assessment Techniques* (C)
- Counts of out-of-class interactions between faculty and students (C)
- Counts of programs that disseminate the program’s major learning goals to all students in the program
- Counts of courses whose syllabi list the course’s major learning goals
- Documentation of the match between course/program objectives and assessments (C)
- Counts of courses whose final grades are based at least in part on assessments of thinking skills as well as basic understanding
- Ratio of performance assessments to paper-and-pencil tests (C)
- Proportions of class time spent in active learning (C)
- Counts of courses with collaborative learning opportunities
- Counts of courses taught using culturally responsive teaching techniques
- Counts of courses with service learning opportunities, or counts of student hours spent in service learning activities
- Library activity in the program’s discipline(s) (e.g., number of books checked out; number of online database searches conducted; number of online journal articles accessed)
- Counts of student majors participating in relevant co-curricular activities (e.g., the percent of Biology majors participating in the Biology Club)
- Voluntary student attendance at disciplinary seminars and conferences and other intellectual/cultural events relevant to a course or program (C)

Suskie, L. (2009). *Assessing student learning: A common sense guide* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.