

Assessment Glossary

Common terms used in Berea's outcomes assessment process

Term	Meaning
Action plan	The specific change a program will make in response to results, with a start date and a reassessment date (Part D of the report).
Annual Assessment Report	The yearly report each department, support program, or office submits, documenting the outcomes assessed that year. Due May 31.
Artifact	A piece of student work (paper, project, performance, exam) used as evidence of an outcome.
Assessment	The systematic collection and use of evidence to understand and improve student learning or program effectiveness.
Assessment cycle	At Berea, a three-year period in which every outcome is assessed at least once and results are used for improvement.
Benchmark / target	The level of performance, set in advance, that shows an outcome has been met (for example, 80% scoring 3 or higher).
Census	Assessing every eligible student, artifact, or record rather than a sample.
Closing the loop	Using results to make a change, then reassessing to see whether the change helped.
Curriculum map	A table showing which courses introduce, develop, and bring each outcome to mastery.
Direct measure	Evidence of what people can actually do or what actually happened, such as rubric-scored work or performance records.
Embedded assessment	Using an assignment or exam already part of a course as assessment evidence.
Formative assessment	Assessment during learning, used to give feedback and adjust teaching.
Indirect measure	Evidence of what people think or report about learning or service, such as surveys or focus groups.
Interrater reliability	The degree to which different scorers give the same work the same score.
Norming (calibration)	A session where scorers practice on shared examples and agree on how to apply a rubric before scoring.
Program outcome / objective (PO)	A measurable result of a program's work that isn't student learning, such as service quality or efficiency.
Rubric	A scoring guide that describes levels of performance for each criterion of a task.
Sample	A subset of students, artifacts, or records chosen to represent the whole group.
Signature assignment	A key assignment designed to show an outcome, often given at the same point in the curriculum each year.
Student learning outcome (SLO)	A statement of what students will be able to do as a result of completing a program.

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Summative assessment	Assessment at the end of a learning experience, used to judge overall achievement.
Supporting materials	Rubrics, assignments, instruments, and data submitted with a report as evidence (Part E).
Triangulation	Using more than one measure of the same outcome to get a fuller, more reliable picture.
Use of results	Evidence that assessment findings informed decisions or changes; what SACSCOC calls "seeking improvement."

Created in collaboration with Claude AI.