

What is Curriculum Mapping? How is it used in integrated assessment?

If a department wants to measure student research skills, all faculty should look at their courses to see what assignments may be in place that might demonstrate the level of student learning for this outcome. It may be that the department chooses to look at a couple of measures for this outcome: one in an introductory course and one in a later course. By doing this, it will be possible to look at student development within this learning outcome. Even if only one measure is to be used, the department must, if it has not already done so, determine how those outcomes are translated into the individual courses taught within the program. This process, typically called curriculum mapping, can demonstrate which courses are meeting specific outcomes.

By using curriculum mapping as a way to organize the overall outcomes of individual courses, faculty can more clearly understand and graphically see the intended learning outcomes and how they are introduced and taught through the curriculum. In addition, faculty can more easily see what material needs to be emphasized to ensure that students are taught concepts and content in a particular order and if prerequisite courses introduce the material appropriately.

Curriculum mapping can also promote higher quality as new courses are created because specific connections among outcomes and course topics can be intentionally organized. In addition, curriculum mapping will more easily show how to align assessment plans to the overall structure of the departmental curriculum, which will better ensure that student learning is assessed in the most meaningful and appropriate way possible. Finally, as faculty revise courses and lessons, curriculum mapping can best demonstrate which areas need additional emphasis and which are covered in many courses. A curriculum map is typically designed as a matrix with the courses on one axis and the outcomes on another. Faculty can then identify which outcomes are introduced or studied at an advanced level for each course that is taught.

A Curriculum Map

	Course Title 1	Course Title 2	Course Title 3	Course Title 4
Outcome 1		Introduced		
Outcome 2			Advanced	Advanced
Outcome 3	Introduced	Advanced		
Outcome 4	Introduced			