

## **What is an integrated assessment plan?**

Integrated assessment is a meaningful and worthwhile process that will inform course, departmental, and campus-level decision making. An integrated assessment plan provides information to the department and the institution that results in an upward spiral of ever-increasing student quality. This change in assessment requires flexibility in the process of planning and reporting (and replanning) as well as an understanding that the assessment plan is part of an ongoing process and is not cast in stone.

This process must be appropriate, meaningful, sustainable, flexible, and ongoing, and it must use data for improvement with the potential for significant change. Although the data collected can also be used to demonstrate outcomes to others for accountability purposes, integrated assessment is primarily focused on how to strengthen student learning.

Because student learning takes place in class and outside class, the entire institution is responsible for developing and measuring learning outcomes that are specific, meaningful, appropriate, and useful. Students work in the classroom with faculty and outside the classroom in internships and research settings; they also work with staff members in service learning projects, the residence halls, with student organizations, and in other nonacademic learning experiences. The more students are involved with learning activities inside and outside the classroom, the more they grow and develop.

An integrated assessment plan includes the institutional and /or departmental mission, vision and values, relevant professional standards of the discipline, student learning outcomes, direct and indirect methods to collect data, and decisions made to enhance learning based on the findings.