Step 6: Collecting assessment data

**Why should our program use both direct and indirect assessments?** Direct assessment involves evaluating student performances, assignments, tests, homework or other activities. Indirect assessment includes surveys, focus groups, attendance at events, participation activities and other efforts not directly linked to student work. If you collect data on student learning by reviewing their work and use information from surveys, placement, retention, you will have a broader picture of your program.

**How do we find data that already exists?** Data that may already exist in surveys and questionnaires of students collect information on their activities like participation in internships or have access to retention and program data. Idaho State has program viability data that tracks retention and other metrics. Access is available to program directors and chairs via Institutional Research.