

Step 6: Collecting Assessment Data

What is a link to a site that can help me understand direct and indirect assessments?

The terminology of assessment isn't supposed to be confusing, but it can be. Think of direct assessment as something tied directly back to an individual student's performance on a project, activity, assignment, performance or other work. Indirect assessment does not come from direct student work, but looks at things that would help your program determine the extent of student success and engagement. These might include enrollment, retention, participation in service learning or internships, alumni surveys or focus groups. The source below helps show you what might appear in these categories.

Skidmore College. Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment at Skidmore College.
Direct vs. Indirect Assessment Methods.

<https://www.skidmore.edu/assessment/archived/direct-v-indirect-assessment.php>

Why should our program use both direct and indirect assessments? 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 that collect information on 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.