Direct Measures

When defined within the context of **degree programs** and **academic and student support services**, direct assessment measures capture student's actual performance in a way that demonstrates specific learning has occurred. Direct assessment measures help to provide key insights into what students can do, which provides strong evidence of student learning. The strength of this measure lies in the fact that it requires students to produce work so that the extent to which learning expectations have been met can be evaluated.

Examples of Direct Measures of Student Learning:

       Portfolio evaluation
       Grading with scoring rubric
       Course-embedded tests, assignments/projects
       Culminating experiences: capstone projects, theses
       Employer's or internship supervisor's direct evaluation of students' performance
       Licensure exams
       Pre and post-test

Note: Grades alone do not usually provide meaningful information on exactly what students have and have not learned (Suskie, 2013). They represent student's overall competency and do not identify strengths and weaknesses on specific learning outcomes. As such, it makes it difficult to decide how to improve teaching and learning.

Indirect Assessment Measures

When defined within the context of **degree programs** and **academic and student services**, indirect assessment measures capture student's attitudes, perceptions, or feelings about their learning. This

Alumni, employer, student engagement surveys
Graduate exit surveys
Departmental surveys
Focus groups
Curriculum/syllabus analysis