The Assessment Process

- Assessment is the systematic collection and analysis of information to improve student learning.

- Goal of Assessment: To determine where there are weaknesses in student learning and seek ways to advance.
Write Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)
They should be S.M.A.R.T
S – Specific
M – Measurable
A – Attainable
R – Results-Focused
T – Time-Focused
How to Write SLOs

- Three categories of SLOs:
  1. Cognitive: what students know
  2. Affective: what students care about
  3. Behavioral: what students should be able to do

- Consider Bloom’s Taxonomy

**Highest Order**
- **Creating**: Designs, Summarizes, Writes
- **Evaluating**: Compares, Critiques, Explains
- **Analyzing**: Analyzes, Outlines, Identifies
- **Applying**: Applies, Changes, Shows, Solves
- **Understanding**: Converts, Comprehends, Explains
- **Remembering**: Defines, Identifies, Recalls

**Lowest Order**
Example SLOs

- Students will describe the major theoretical approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

- Students will design a research study, collect and analyze data, and interpret empirical findings.

- Students will apply personal, social, and organizational situations to psychology.
Sample SLOs

- **Biology**

  **Course Goal**

  Students will learn and demonstrate use of the scientific method for original scientific research.

  **SLO**

  - The student will demonstrate that s/he has formulated an hypothesis, designed a good experiment, controlled variables, operationally defined terms and interpreted data appropriately.

  - The student will demonstrate understanding of the scope and sequence of the scientific report format by outlining and completing a report based on one of the in-class experiments.

  *adapted from California State University Multi-Campus Team Drafts (1998).*
Sample SLOs

- **Religion**

**Course Goal**

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the theological foundation of the course.

**SLO**

When given a definition of the term “religion,” the student will identify which of the following characteristics is emphasized: feeling, ritual activity, belief, monotheism, the solitary individual, social valuation, illusion, ultimate reality, and/or value.

*adapted from California State University Multi-Campus Team Drafts (1998).*
General Education or Major?

- Gen Ed – See Assessment Website
- Major Field – See Chair of Assessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>PSY 202</th>
<th>PSY 310</th>
<th>PSY 311</th>
<th>PSY 312</th>
<th>PSY 330</th>
<th>PSY 340</th>
<th>PSY 341</th>
<th>PSY 345</th>
<th>PSY 352</th>
<th>PSY 360</th>
<th>PSY 361</th>
<th>PSY 370</th>
<th>PSY 380</th>
<th>PSY 382</th>
<th>PSY 405</th>
<th>PSY 417</th>
<th>PSY 432</th>
<th>PSY 434</th>
<th>PSY 453</th>
<th>PSY 454</th>
<th>PSY 472</th>
<th>PSY 4853</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<td>Applying Psychology</td>
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Determine Assessment Tools

A. Method of gathering data

B. Use multiple methods
   I. Direct
      a) Rubrics, Major Field Tests, Written Papers
   II. Indirect
      a) Surveys, Grades

Why can’t I just use grades?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>PYS 2023</th>
<th>PSY 310</th>
<th>PSY 3103</th>
<th>PSY3113</th>
<th>PSY 3123</th>
<th>PSY 3703</th>
<th>PSY 4363</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Content of Psychology</td>
<td>Give a Presentation</td>
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<td>Multiple Choice Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>Write an APA style Literature Review</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Propose and complete simple research projects involving human or non-human subjects and submit a formal APA style empirical research report describing that study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applying Psychology</td>
<td>Write a Personal Statement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assessment is done by using multiple-choice questions at the knowledge, comprehension, and application levels. Exam questions vary from term to term.</td>
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## Example Assessment Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Assessed</th>
<th>Data 1</th>
<th>Data 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                 | Theory and Content of Psychology | • PSY 2023 Presentation  
• Gathered Yearly  
• Evaluated by course faculty | • PSY 4363  
Multiple choice Test  
• Gathered Yearly  
• Evaluated by course Faculty |
|                 | Applying Psychology           | • PSY 2023 Written Personal Statement  
• Gathered Yearly  
• Evaluated by Program Rubric | • PSY 3123  
Multiple Choice Test  
• Gathered Yearly  
• Evaluated by course Faculty |
| Year 2          | Research Methods in Psychology | • PSY 2023 Written Paper  
• Gathered Yearly  
• Evaluated by Program Rubric | • PSY 3123  
Written Paper  
• Gathered Yearly  
• Evaluated by Program Rubric |
Decide what you should do with based on the data.

A. What needs changing?
B. Who needs to be informed about the data?
C. Do more data need to be collected?
CLOSE THE LOOP

Intended Outcome (SLO or SUO)

Assessment Task (What/How/When/Who/Where)

Criteria/Expected Level of Achievement (Criteria/Standards/Who is Counted)

Results of Assessment (Results/Highlights/Conclusion)

Actions Taken (Modifications/Time Frame/Who Implements)