

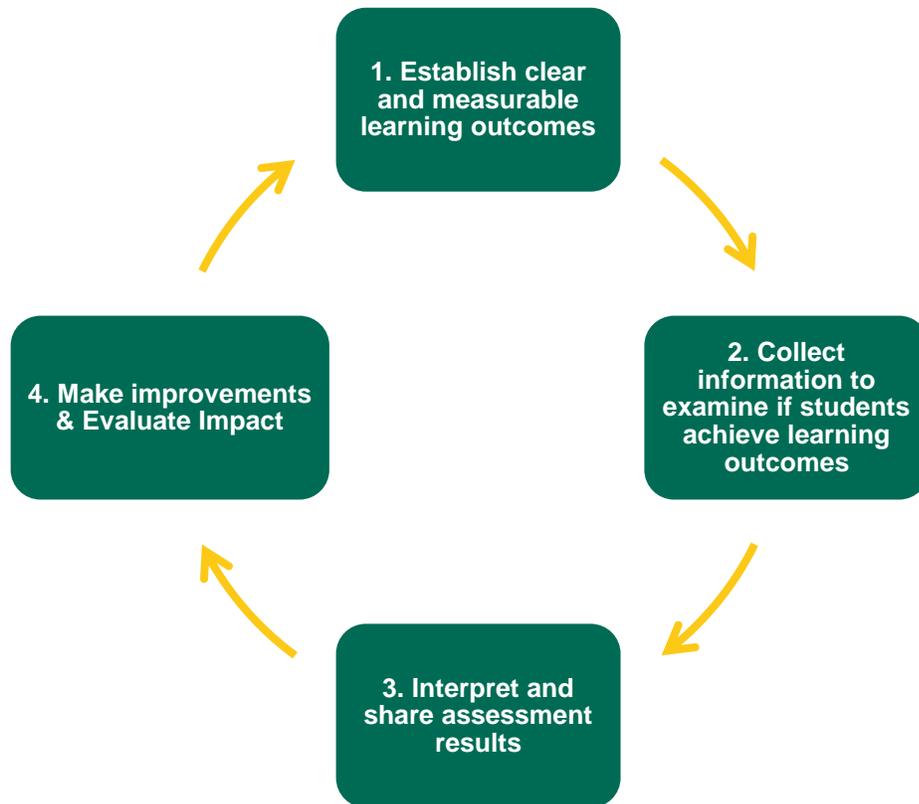
Academic Assessment Quick Guide

Why am I asked to do assessment?

All academic programs at Siena annually are encouraged to document their assessment activities to provide evidence of students' achievement of their program learning outcomes and for continuous quality improvement efforts in teaching and learning. The completion of yearly assessment reports provides a means for the programs to continuously improve the quality in teaching and learning. It also provides accountability to internal and external stakeholders and fulfill accreditation requirements.

How do I assess?

You are being asked to report what you are probably already doing. The ultimate goal is to track if students are learning and have achieved the expected program-level outcomes. An effective assessment process can be represented as a loop with four stages: 1) establish program-level learning outcomes; 2) gather evidence of student learning; 3) analyze and discuss results within or across departments; and 4) make changes to the courses and pedagogy and/or assessment instrument.



Four steps

1. Articulate learning outcomes: Determine what knowledge and skills that students are required to demonstrate at the successful completion of the program. A major program usually has 5-7 learning outcomes, and a minor or certificate program may have 2-3.
2. Collect student learning data: Determine WHO will receive the assessment, WHAT method/artifact you will use to capture the level of proficiency, and WHEN you will conduct the assessment and how frequently. Develop a program curriculum map to visualize the alignment between learning outcomes and assessment activities.
3. Analyze and interpret results: Compare student learning outcomes with the established benchmark and identify the patterns. Plan evidence-based changes after program-level discussion of the results, to improve teaching and/or curriculum.
4. Make improvements and reassess: Carry out proposed changes to improve the program, and monitor and document the impact of these changes. This could be a start of assessment in a new cycle.

For more information, please refer to Academic Assessment Handbook or reach out to Lisa Yu at fyu@siena.edu.