What are characteristics of effective student learning outcomes and methods of assessment?

**Student Learning Outcomes should be SMART:**
- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Attainable**
- **Results-oriented**
- **Time-bound**

**Methods should be MATURE:**
- **Matches:**
  - Is aligned with the outcome to be measured
- **Appropriate:**
  - Choose appropriate method
- **Targets:**
  - Indicates desired level of performance
- **Useful:**
  - Will provide you with useful and useable information; methods help identify what is already effective and what can be improved
- **Reliable:**
  - Based on tested, known methods and yields consistent results over time
- **Effective and Efficient:**
  - Each approach accurately and concisely measures the outcome

(Source: http://oeas.ucf.edu/doc/adm_assess_handbook.pdf)
Improving Student Learning Through Assessment

What is the assessment of student learning?

“Assessment is the ongoing process of:

• Establishing clear, measurable expected outcomes of student learning.

• Ensuring that students have sufficient opportunities to achieve those outcomes.

• Systematically gathering, analyzing, and interpreting evidence to determine how well student learning matches our expectations.

• Using the resulting information to understand and improve student learning.”


What is the purpose of assessing student learning?

• Reinforce or focus on the mission of your institution/program.

• Ensure that institutional and program-level goals are clear to various stakeholders, including the public, students, faculty, and staff.

• Use assessment results to modify, shape, and improve student learning at the institution.

• Evaluate student learning, not personnel.

• Serve as a resource for planning and budgeting.

• Assist in meeting accreditation requirements, best practices, and benchmarks; required by SACS, VCCS, and SCHEV.

What are the levels for assessing student learning?

• Classroom

• Course

• Program

• Institution

What are student learning outcomes?

• Student learning outcomes are the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that students gain from a learning experience.

• Student learning outcomes define what students know, are able to do, and value by the end of a learning experience.