

Thinking About Assessment

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Assessment is the systematic collection of quantitative data for the purpose of either improving program performance or fortifying accountability. It does two (sometimes 3) things:

- **Accountability.** The idea that the resources allocated to programs and/or services are spent responsibly and translate into results (outcomes). Assessment results show that the programs and/or services are achieving the objectives of a mission or strategic plan.
- Provides information permitting us to improve our programs and/or services and ultimately student learning outcomes.
- Results can be used to raise money!



Mission Statement Effectiveness



“That’s our new mission statement.”

<http://www.jeffmarmins.com/effectiveness/how-can-i-be-more-effective/>



Caltech
www.caltech.edu

Mission for Educational Outreach:

<http://outreach.caltech.edu/>

Caltech Educational Outreach programs translate and transfer the essence of the Institute's research for the purpose of increasing public awareness and understanding of basic science and engineering principles.

These projects also provide professional development for Caltech students who gain experience in designing, delivering and assessing classroom lessons tied to their field of study.

Our Promise:

Each funded program meets the highest educational outreach standards and includes a working plan for measuring success using proven tools and instruments for assessment and evaluation of outcomes.



Educational Outreach Mission Statement Examples:

The mission of the Caltech Classroom Connection (CCC) is to create sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships between Caltech volunteers and local educators.

Caltech chapter of Innoworks: The organization aims to get underserved middle school students more interested in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine.

Rise Program: The program is designed to help students gain greater competency in math foundations, improve skills in math and science and prepare students for college-level math and science.



A few Issues

1. How much money is there to assess? If it's limited collect only information that you will use.
2. Slow and steady is better than hurried and sloppy. Stay focused on the mission.
3. Get buy in and avoid window dressing.
4. Outputs vs. Outcomes
5. Triangulate when possible—See TMP as an example.
6. IRB
7. Resources:



Institutional Review Board

Will I need IRB approval?

Does it create generalizable knowledge?

Are the results publicized?

Are the participants <18?

Are you using existing data?

Can people be individually identified?



Resources:

http://www.stanford.edu/group/ncpi/unspecified/assessment_states/instruments.html

<http://www.learningoutcomeassessment.org/>

http://www.apu.edu/live_data/files/333/cas_frameworks_for_assessing_learning_and_development_outcomes.pdf

<http://marketplace.unl.edu/buros/>

<http://www.pearweb.org/atis>



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