ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
CRITICAL THINKING

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Assessment of SLO involves alignment of goals and outcomes at all three levels. Course specific outcomes are aligned to the program goals and objectives, which in turn are aligned to the overall institutional mission, goals and general education curriculum.

Assessment of student learning is the systematic collection of information about student learning using various methods in order to inform decisions about how to improve learning.
WCCCD’s Philosophy of General Education: Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking is one of WCCCD’s 9 core abilities (philosophies of general education) as outlined in the catalog.

Upon successful completion of the curriculum, the student will be able to:

“Identify, define, and think critically about the issues that arise in daily life, both personally and professionally.”
“The objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgement”

*English Oxford Dictionary*

Various research shows the use of Bloom’ Taxonomy as a foundation for critical thinking objectives.
Institutional Level Assessment

Examples of critical thinking assessments at the institutional level:

- Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)
- Graduate Exit
- Student Survey of Instruction (SSOI)

Indirect Institutional Level Assessment Examples:

- Graduation Rates
- Course Completion Rates
- Surveys: CCSSE, Graduate Exit, SSOI, Alumni

Direct Institutional Level Assessment Examples:

- Licensure/Standardized Exams
This is an example question from WCCCD Graduate Exit survey upon completion of degree and/or certificate.

“My major program developed or enhanced my critical thinking skills…”

- A great deal: 62%
- Quite a bit: 31%
- Neutral/Somewhat: 7%
- A little: 1%
- Not at all: 1%
Institutional Level Assessment : SSOI

“how much has this class added to your critical thinking skills?”

- A great deal: 59%
- Quite a bit: 22%
- Moderately: 11%
- A little: 4%
Program Level Assessment

Examples of critical thinking at the program level:
• Third party critical thinking assessment test (CAT).

Indirect Program Level Assessment Examples:
• Grades
• Employer Satisfaction Surveys
• Field Work Evaluations
• Graduate Surveys
• Alumni Surveys

Direct Program Level Assessment Examples:
• Licensure/Certification Pass Rates
Examples of critical thinking assessment at the course level:
- Rubrics
- Argument analysis skills
- Evaluating information on the internet

**Indirect Course Level Assessment Examples:**
- Grades
- Reflection Papers
- Student Self-Assessment

**Direct Course Level Assessment Examples:**
- Course Exams
- Student Portfolios
- Tests and Quizzes
- Rubrics
Brainstorming Activity: How Do You Evaluate Critical Thinking?

- Generate ideas.
  - Write down how you evaluate critical thinking in your course or discipline or ideas you may have
  - Use your creative thinking
  - Break into smaller groups

- Remember the Rules:
  - No idea is a bad idea
  - Be CREATIVE
  - Take risks
  - No criticism allowed