

University of Idaho

Philosophy for Assessing & Evaluating Student Learning Activities

The University of Idaho is committed to meeting the educational needs of its students. Assessment and evaluation, when practiced effectively, will help us define what is important and improve the quality of the education we offer our students. The University's strategic plan set forth the goal of making the UI a residential campus of choice in the west. To ensure that University of Idaho students receive the quality of education that will build and preserve this goal, University faculty, staff and administration willingly take responsibility to assess our programs and continually improve our teaching and learning environment. Those programs include undergraduate and core education programs, student affairs activities and services, residents and Greek life programs, computer, technology and library services, and all programs and services that are part of the student experience at the University of Idaho.

As is also laid out in the strategic plan, the University of Idaho strives to be a globally competitive center for high quality graduate, professional and research programs. A formative and comprehensive assessment of all graduate and research programs will ensure that our graduate programs are strong, our research programs are contributing to their disciplines, and that the university is continually moving toward accomplishing this goal.

According to the American Association of Higher Education, "Assessment fosters wider improvement when representatives from across the education community are involved." For this reason, assessment and evaluation must occur at the programmatic level and be a collaborative effort involving students, faculty, and staff. The assessment and evaluation process works with clearly stated student learning goals, and should consider the experiences and coursework the student must have to achieve those goals. By employing a variety of assessment and evaluation methods to collect and analyze meaningful data on an ongoing schedule, the process will reveal institutional successes and needs, as well as ways in which we can improve the services, programs, and experiences provided for our students.