



Direct & Indirect Assessment

What's the Difference?

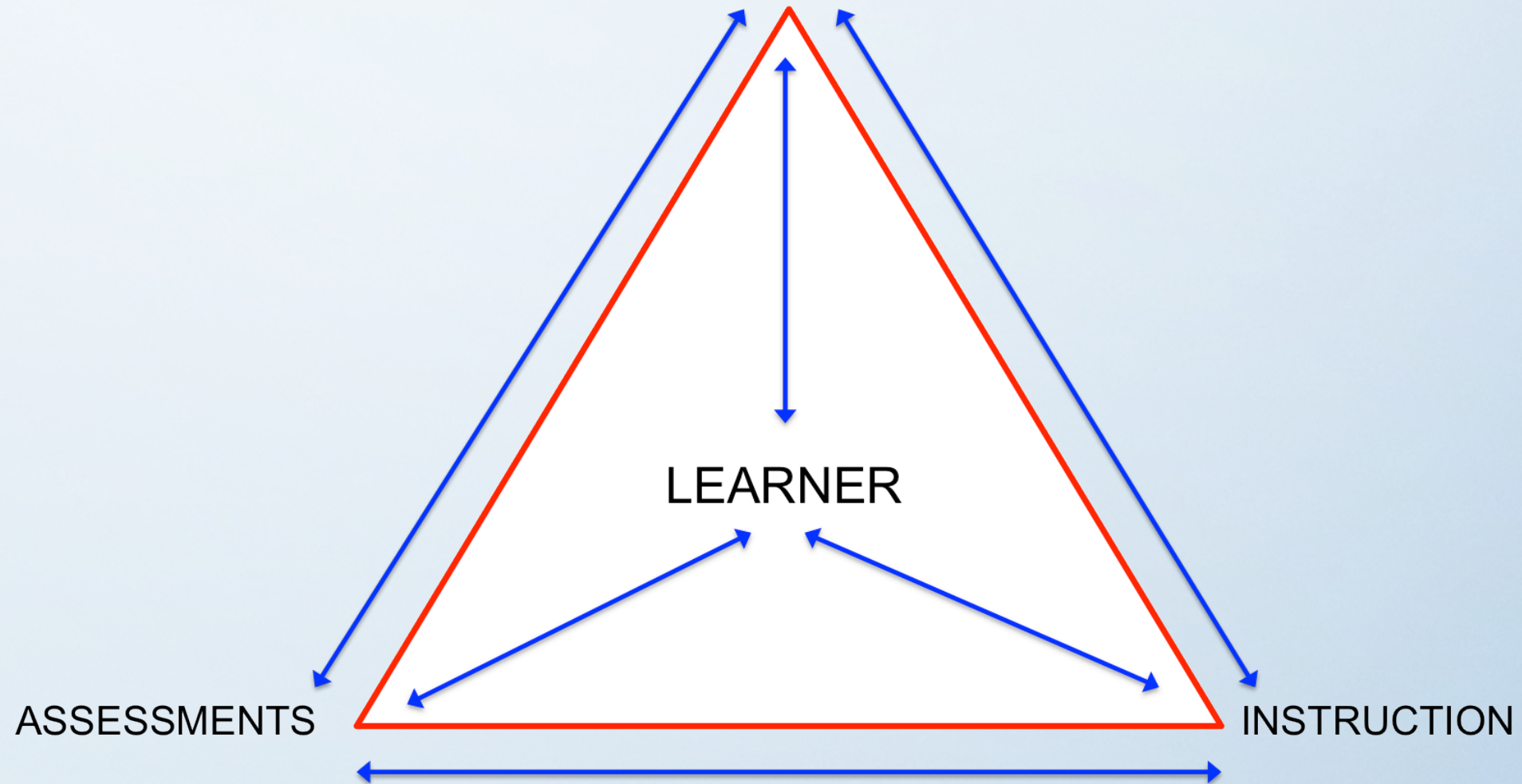
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What is Assessment?

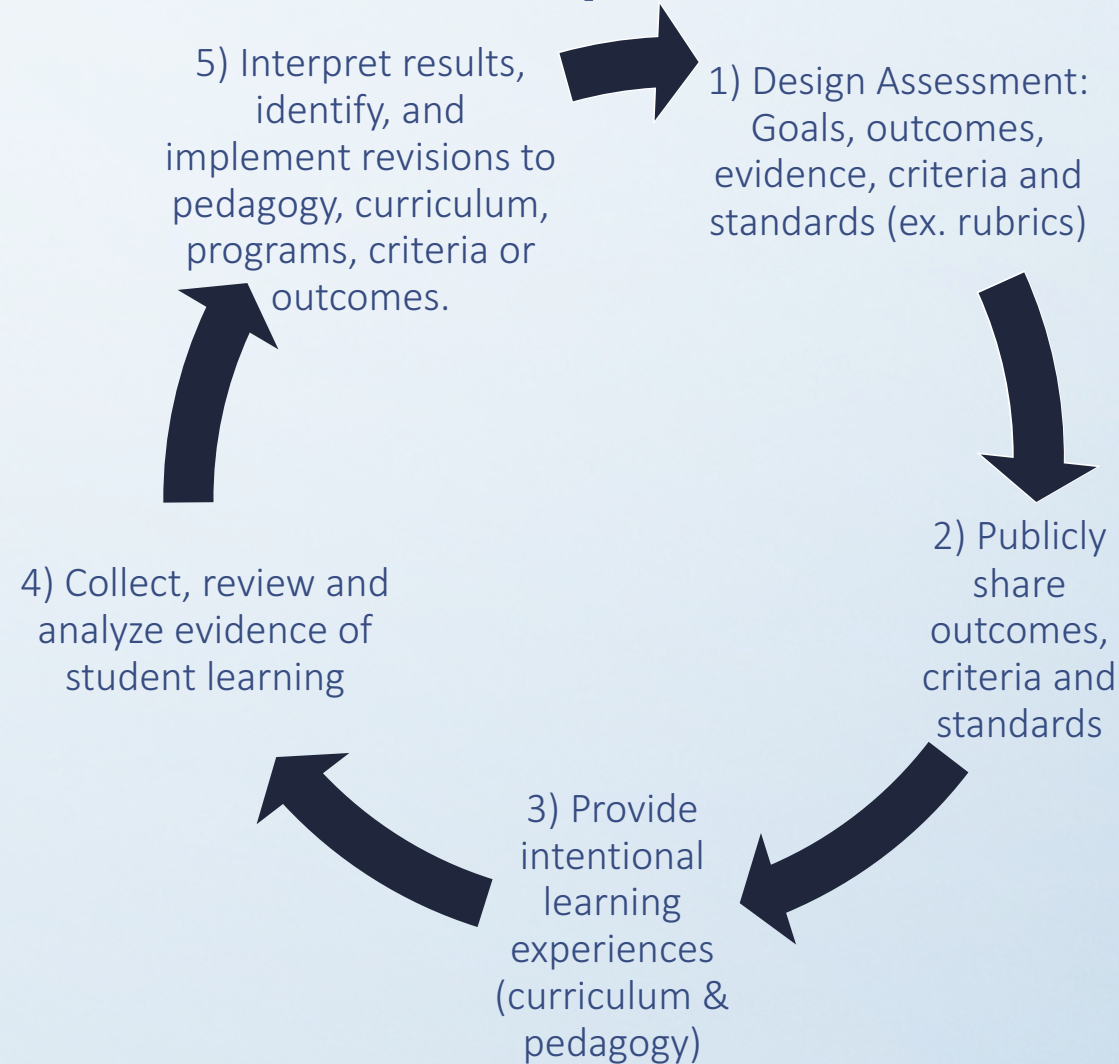
Assessment is the process in which programs and institutions articulate what students should learn, how students demonstrate that learning, think critically about the effectiveness of methods to student learning, and make action plans based on the results of these functions

Aligning Class Outcomes to Activities

LEARNING OUTCOMES



The Assessment Cycle



What is Direct Assessment

consists of the assessment of products produced by students for the purposes of learning and to demonstrate learning

Examples of Direct Assessment

- papers
- projects
- presentations
- performances
- posters
- tests
- theses / dissertations

Different Types of Direct Assessment

- Formative Assessment
 - information gathered during the learning process. Enables the instructor to provide feedback to the learner and subsequently enhance student learning. An example of formative assessment might be feedback provided on drafts of student work.
- Summative Assessment
 - information gathered at the conclusion of a learning experience to provide a picture of student abilities at that point in time. An example of a summative assessment is a final / exit examination.

What is Indirect Assessment?

involves a report about learning rather than a direct demonstration of learning

Examples of Indirect Assessment

- Surveys
 - Checklist
 - Linear Rating Scale
 - Likert Scale
 - Open-ended Response
 - Partially Close-ended Response
 - Ranking
- Interviews
 - Structured
 - Unstructured
- Focus Groups
 - Traditional Focus Groups
 - Structured Group Interviews

Which is better?

- Not a question of “better,” but about what our goals are.
 - Direct assessment involves students *doing* something—that is demonstrating the extent of their knowledge / abilities of a given learning outcome
 - Indirect assessment involves *perception* of that ability / knowledge
- Perceptions help guide us, but they complement our direct knowledge of student ability, not replace it.