Best Practices in Assessment
National Issues

• **Spellings Commission**
• **Accreditation**
• Voluntary efforts
  – **VSA**
  – **COFHE**
  – **AAU**
  – **Council of Independent Colleges**
Assessing Student Learning

• University structure
  – Executive Assessment Council
  – Assessment Council
    • Reporting deadlines, January & May
    • Online reporting http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/assessment/cycle.html
  – Assessment Advisory Committees
    • Dean; Pharmacy, SAS, SEBS
    • Faculty lead
Assessing Student Learning

- General Education
- Program or Major
- In the classroom
Assessing Student Learning - Methods

• Direct: student work
  – Exams and papers
  – Portfolio
  – Presentations
  – Competitions
  – testing

• Indirect: attitudes and opinions
  – Surveys
  – Focus groups
Assessing Student Learning – Methods

• Authentic Assessment: project- oriented
  – Field work
  – Civic Engagement

• Scholarship of Teaching
  – Research on Learning
  – Research on Teaching
Assessment need not be a research project.
- Collecting useful information to improve decision-making
- Not as comprehensive as research
- Feedback
Resources

http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/assmt/resource.htm#course_assmt
Best Practice

• General Education
  – Direct
    • CLA
    • ePortfolio (Douglass Residential College)
    • Merrill School UMD
  – https://www.jportfolio.umd.edu/
  – http://www.jportfolio.umd.edu/learningoutcomes.asp
    • UMD Library
    • http://www.lib.umd.edu/MCK/assessment.html
Best Practice

– Indirect
  • NSSE
  • http://nsse.iub.edu/index.cfm

  • SERU
    http://cshe.berkeley.edu/research/seru/index.htm
Assessment Goals

Write down two things you want to know about your students’ progress.
Best Practice

• Program or Department
  – Direct
    • Physics – Force Concept Inventory
    • Food Science – content exam
    • Economics – Forecasting Competition
    • Environmental Sciences – undergrad learning goals
  – Indirect
    • Economics, Electrical Engineering – Senior Survey
    • Genetics – Alumni Survey
Best Practice

• Authentic
  – CESEP
  – Field courses
  – Student Teaching

• Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
  – SIRS
  – Physics, Etkina & Van Heuvelen
  – CASTL
  – SALG
Assessment Methods

Write down a method to assess each of your goals.
Malcolm Gladwell

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iliAAhUeR6Y