**Assessment Vocabulary**

* **Achievement Target (Criterion)** – A target, benchmark, or value that will represent success at achieving a given outcome.

* **Action Plan (Recommendation)** – Actions taken to improve the program or assessment process based on the analysis of results.

**Assessment** – The systematic collection, review, and use of information about educational and other support programs undertaken for the purpose of program improvement, student learning, and development.

* **Assessment Method (Measure)** – A process employed to gather assessment information.

  - **Direct Measure** – Processes employed to assess student learning by requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and skills
  - **Indirect Measure** – Processes employed to assess students’ perceptions of their learning
    o Questionnaires, Surveys, etc...


**Assessment Report** – An annual document, based on the Assessment Plan that presents and explains assessment results and shows how assessment results are being used to improve the program.

**Cycle** – Span of time for a single assessment sequence.

* **Findings (Results)** – Assessment results for comparison of actual vs. expected achievement level.

**Mission Statement** – A concise statement outlining the purpose of a program.

* **Outcome** – A specific measurable and/ or value that will represent success at achieving a given outcome.

  - **Student Learning Outcome** – An identified action that a student is expected to demonstrate in terms of knowledge, skills, and/ or attitudes upon completion of an educational program.
  - **Other Program Outcomes** – Other program outcomes not directly related to student learning, such as student/ faculty ratio or program completion rate.

**Strategic Plan** – A long term, practical, action oriented document resulting from the strategic planning process.