Year One

Session Eight: Selecting Methods for Knowing

Where We Are…
Design Steps

1. Define the context of the assessment.
2. Determine the purpose of the study.
3. Determine where to get the information needed.
4. Determine the best assessment approach(es).
5. Determine how the data will be collected.
6. Determine the assessment tools to be used.
7. Determine how the data will be analyzed.
8. Determine strategies for identifying the implications of the results for practice.
9. Specify how the results will be used and reported.
**Types of Evidence**

- **Direct Evidence**
  - Tangible, compelling
  - Examples:
    - Course-embedded assessments – using rubrics
    - Capstone experiences
    - Student reflections on values, beliefs, etc.
    - Ratings of student skills by field supervisors / employers

- **Indirect Evidence**
  - Proxy indicators
  - Examples:
    - Grades (course/assignment)
    - Retention / graduation rates
    - Placement rates
    - Student self-assessments of skills
    - Alumni perceptions

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**Approach**

- **Quantitative**
  - Data are numbers
  - Analysis ranges from simple to complex statistics
    - Rubric scores
    - Correlation / regression
  - Purpose is generalizable findings; testing a hypothesis
  - Emphasis on validity, reliability

- **Qualitative**
  - Data are words, pictures, ideas \(\rightarrow\) anything but numbers
  - Data are collected and analyzed by the researcher \(\rightarrow\) not by mechanical means
  - Purpose is depth of understanding within a defined context
  - Emphasis on trustworthiness and rigor
Which method?

Your assessment question(s) should drive the methods you select…

- How will you use the results?
- What do you need to know?
- What kind of information will help you answer your question?
- How can you best gather and analyze that information?

Method Smorgasbord

- observations
- rubrics
- standardized exams
- interviews
- focus groups
- CATs
- performances
- portfolios
- minute papers
- alumni surveys
- document analysis
- benchmarks
What are you thinking?

Next Time

May 13th, 2010
3:30-4:45 p.m.
Commons - Stockholm

Presenting Your Plans!
Next Time

In preparation:

- Work with your department / program to finalize your assessment plan.

Consider:

- Feasibility
- Usefulness