

# Beyond Grades

## ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT

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**A PRACTICAL RESOURCE FOR  
ACADEMIC LEADERS AND  
ASSESSMENT TEAMS**

# WHY TRADITIONAL GRADING ISN'T ENOUGH

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Letter grades don't tell the full story. Accreditors, regulators, and increasingly students demand more than GPA; they want demonstrable learning outcomes, real-world readiness, and institutional accountability. The “Beyond Grades” approach challenges colleges and universities to link classroom assessment with institutional effectiveness. This toolkit will help your team design and document assessment systems that align with state authorization, accreditation consulting for colleges, and student-centered success.

# AEC'S ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



## INPUTS

**Curriculum Design**  
**Faculty**  
**Facilities**



## ACTIVITIES

**Instructional**  
**Strategies**  
**Support Services**



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Program and**  
**Course-Level**  
**Benchmarks**



## IMPROVEMENT

**Use-of-results**  
**Planning**  
**Budgeting**



## EVIDENCE

**Assessment Tools**  
**Student Artifacts**  
**Data Trends**

**Use this worksheet to map course-level outcomes to program goals and metrics.**

[illegible]

# STUDENT LEARNING EVIDENCE RUBRIC

**Purpose: Evaluate the quality and alignment of  
assessment evidence collected.**

Criteria	Exemplary (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Alignment to Outcome	Clear & direct	Somewhat aligned	Unclear or unrelated
Evidence Type	Direct & authentic	Indirect or mixed	Self-reported only
Depth of Analysis	Thoroughly scored and reviewed	Limited analysis	No scoring or reviewing
Documentation	Well-organized, labeled, archived	Partially organized	Missing or inconsistent

# Institutional Effectiveness Checklist

**Instructions: Check all that apply to your institution. Used for self-audits or site visit prep.**

# Use-Of-Results Planning Template

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**Purpose:** Guide your team in documenting how assessment results will lead to improvements.

Area Assessed	Key Findings	Planned Action	Timeline	Owner

# FINAL NOTES

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Great institutions don't just assess; they act. This toolkit is your first step toward building a culture where learning outcomes are not only measured, but meaningfully applied. Use these template to drive dialogue, enhance reporting, and demonstrate compliance with both accreditors and stakeholders

*Need help implementing or reviewing your assessment system?*

Schedule a free consultation with our team or visit our page on assessment-focused accreditation services.