

# Glossary of Assessment Terms

**BENCHMARK:** A point of reference or standard for measurement; a threshold for success (an expected score on a standardized test, achievement of identified characteristics in a portfolio, progress noted from longitudinal data, accreditation expectations, etc.)

**FINDINGS:** Conclusions drawn from the analysis of assessment information (Learning Outcomes are not being achieved, level of performance are increasing or decreasing, a significant number of graduates excel or are deficient in a specific area, students perceptions do or do not match their performance, etc.)

**GOALS:** Expected accomplishments of students (employment, transfer, licensure, commitment to lifelong learning, etc.)

**IMPROVEMENTS:** Changes to curriculum, scheduling, facilities, equipment, classrooms, labs, advising, etc. that respond directly to assessment findings.

**MEASURES:** Methods of assessment (surveys and questionnaires, interviews, written or oral tests, focus groups, portfolios, simulations, etc.)

- **INDIRECT MEASURES:** Perceived success in achieving outcomes (Student responses to survey or interview questions about the writing instructions they receive at CC).
- **DIRECT MEASURES:** Demonstrated success in achieving outcomes (Portfolios of student writing).

**OUTCOMES:** Knowledge, skills, and abilities that students should attain by completing the degree program