

# Glossary of Syllabus Terminology

**Assessment** - an ongoing process aimed at understanding and improving student learning. It involves making our expectations explicit and public; setting appropriate criteria and high standards for learning quality; systematically gathering, analyzing, and interpreting evidence to determine how well performance matches those expectations and standards; and using the resulting information to document, explain, and improve performance. (AAHE Bulletin, Nov. 95, p. 7)

**Assessment Tool** - a data collection instrument for determining how well intended outcomes are met. Examples: test questions, papers, projects, observations, etc.

**Intended Outcome** - the measurable, observable result of learning based upon agreed criteria. Unlike objectives that state what the instructor will do to the students, intended outcomes describe what students will do or achieve in class.

**Standards of Achievement** - the criteria or grading scale used to measure student performance on a given assessment tool.

**Rubric** - a set of specific scoring guidelines that describes student performance and allows the assignment of ratings or scores. Rubrics consist of a fixed scale and a list of characteristics at each score for a particular outcome.