A Definition of Assessment
From the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission defines assessment of student learning in the following way:

“Assessment of student learning is a participatory, iterative process that:

- Provides data/information you need on your students’ learning
- Engages you and others in analyzing and using this data/information to confirm and improve teaching and learning
- Produces evidence that students are learning the outcomes you intended
- Guides you in making educational and institutional improvements
- Evaluates whether changes made improve/impact student learning, and documents the learning and your efforts.”

Fundamental Questions for evaluation:

- How are your stated learning outcomes appropriate to your mission, programs, students and degrees?
- How do you ensure shared responsibility for student learning & assessment of student learning?
- What evidence do you have that students achieve your stated learning outcomes?
- In what ways do you analyze and use evidence of student learning?
- How do you evaluate and improve the effectiveness of your efforts to assess and improve student learning?