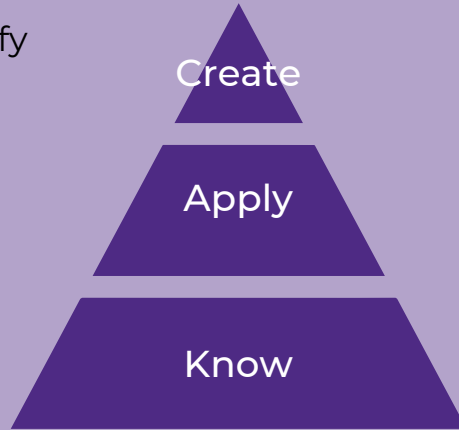# Program Assessment Terms and Concepts: A Brief Glossary for Shared Understanding

Student Learning Outcomes

Statements that specify what students will know or be able to do at the end of the program or area of study (versus learning objectives or goals which are typically broad statements and not written in ways that can be measured)
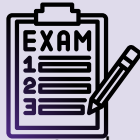
Create

Apply

Know

Curriculum Mapping

Visual methods to represent the alignment between the program's (or *major's*) curriculum and student learning outcomes of the program or major

Assessment

A systematic process for *understanding* and *improving* learning (Angelo, 1995). There are multiple levels within educational contexts (e.g., individual, course, program or majors as defined by institutions)

Assessment Measures

Tools that capture student learning. Measures can be embedded (part of course activities) or add-on (external to course). There are two main types:

- **Direct measures:** Tools that involve direct observation of learning (e.g., rubrics and exams)
- **Indirect measures:** Tools that capture students' perceptions of learning (e.g., surveys and focus groups)

Assessment Plan

Documents that indicate the who, what, how, and when—these documents help to plan for manageable and sustainable ways of conducting assessment. Effective plans typically include:

- Type of evidence in relation to the learning outcome
- Timeframe for evidence collection
- Analysis and interpretation of findings