With the VALUE Institute, we’re creating a nationwide effort to change the conversation about higher education quality, equity, and assessment to help educators use learning outcomes evidence to improve student success.

The VALUE approach is both evidence-based and evidence-generating. It is a methodologically sound, authentic, and creative response to the need for direct evidence of the quality of student learning across critical skills and abilities associated with success in life and work. Rather than a standardized test divorced from the curriculum, the VALUE Institute bases its assessment of student learning achievement on the actual work that students produce in response to assignments from the curriculum or co-curriculum in whatever institution(s) the student attended.

We’re changing the conversation

The VALUE Institute, in collaboration with approximately 450 institutions of higher education across the country, has developed 16 rubrics that represent the evidence used to measure the VALUE of student learning. These rubrics are designed to be used as summative assessment tools to measure student outcomes and are aligned with the 12 Essential Learning Outcomes of the VALUE Institute.

How Should We Measure Learning?

Students Matter.

Faculty Matter.

Assignments Matter.

VALUE’s 16 rubrics are the means to measure progress toward broadly shared Essential Learning Outcomes. These tools outline four levels of performance with higher scores denoting increasingly complex and sophisticated levels of proficiency. Higher scores on the scale—defined as a mark of 3 or 4—indicate the level of proficiency required of college graduates from all institutions in preparation for success.

Taxonomy of VALUE Rubric Scores

138 higher education institutions have contributed 52,534 student artifacts over the past five years, for 2,777 different states!

Learn how your institution can use direct evidence of learning to improve student success at www.aacu.org/valueinstitute, or email valueinstitute@aacu.org.