

What is Good Evidence?

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Evidence is defined as “evidence is what is advanced to support a claim.” Evidence is:

1. Is intentional and purposeful
2. Entails interpretation and reflection
3. Is integrated and holistic
4. Can be both qualitative and quantitative.
5. Can be direct or indirect.

Five Principles of **Good Evidence**:

1. Relevant
2. Verifiable
3. Representative
4. Cumulative
5. Actionable.

Four Principles of **Evidence of Student Learning**:

1. Evidence should cover knowledge and skills taught throughout the program’s curriculum
2. Evidence should involve multiple judgments of student performance (portfolio reviews, general education evidence analysis)
3. Evidence should provide information on multiple dimensions of student performance (team reviews)
4. Evidence should involve more than surveys or self-reports (student work).

Things to avoid:

1. Avoid trying to measure everything.
2. Avoid trying to be too precise.
3. Avoid premature closure.

See: *Evidence Guide: A Guide to Using Evidence in the Accreditation Process*, WASC January 2002. Available on our website <http://www.csuchico.edu/vpaa/vppra/wasc/resources.html>