

The role of institutions and academics in accountability

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The accountability debate has focused on broad objectives.

Focus of these remarks:

How universities and other institutions can develop and use outcome measures for student learning.

Some recent initiatives look at student performance/outcomes.

The Quality Assurance Agency (UK): statement on subject benchmarks.

US universities: using student outcome measures; developing portfolios.

Other agencies and countries have paid attention to student outcomes.

Still Neglected:

- *Institutional implementation.*
- *The role of academics.*

Institutional-level Steps to Introduce Assessment

- **Planning:**
 - Develop instruments suitable for all study programs.
 - Develop assessment criteria, cut-offs and consequences.
 - Develop a program improvement strategy, based on assessment results.

Institutional Steps.....

- **Program-level implementation.**
 - Develop an administrative plan and schedule.
 - Develop a reporting process for public audiences.
 - Implement program improvement.

Critical issues in the planning stage

- Who will be in charge.
- Selecting instruments...or developing new ones.
- Determining criteria and cutoffs.
- Designing a program improvement strategy.

Critical issues in the implementation stage

Developing a schedule for implementation.

When will decisions count.

Interpreting results for public audiences.

Interpreting results for program improvement.
