

[Excerpted from Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic- Serving Institutions  
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### **Project Evaluation: Measures to Assess Success**

All proposals are expected to include a well-reasoned, well-organized plan for carrying out the proposed activities, including mechanism(s) to assess success. The project plan should indicate (e.g., through the inclusion of a logic model) the connections among project goals, activities, outputs, and outcomes. As part of their plans for assessing success, proposals need to indicate how projects will provide ongoing critical reviews of all components of their design and activities (including theoretical frameworks, project activities, data collection plans, analysis plans, and reporting plans). In detailing plans for assessing success, proposals should do the following.

Explain why the plan is appropriate given the size and scope of the project. Describe the qualitative and/or quantitative measures that will inform the project team about progress toward achieving goals and specific objectives. Provide a timeline that clarifies responsibilities for generating, interpreting, and using evidence of success. Describe how the evidence arising from these critical reviews will be utilized (e.g., for continuous quality improvement, program management, and/or accountability purposes). Indicate how input from the independent evaluator or evaluation team will inform the design, conduct, and interpretation, use, and dissemination of findings resulting from activities to assess success.

The following references may be helpful in designing mechanisms and a plan for assessing success of the project:

The American Evaluation Association's Guiding Principles for Evaluators:

<http://www.eval.org/p/cm/ld/fid=51>

The Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation:

<http://www.jcsee.org/program-evaluation-standards-statements>

AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework:

<https://portalcentral.aihec.org/Indigeval/Lists/IndigenousEvaluationFrmWork/AllItems.aspx>

Evaluation e-library of the American Evaluation Association Resource Library:

<http://www.eval.org> Evidence: An Essential Tool Report:  
[https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf0531](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf0531) User-Friendly Handbook for Mixed Method Evaluations:  
[https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf97153](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf97153) The 2010 User-Friendly Handbook for Project Evaluation: [http://evaluate.org/featured\\_resources/resources/2010\\_user\\_friendly\\_handbook/](http://evaluate.org/featured_resources/resources/2010_user_friendly_handbook/)