

North Carolina A&T State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
*Department of Visual and Performing Arts*

Fall Planning Meeting  
“*Celebrating Our Past, Defining Our Future*”  
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Department Assessment  
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### Tips & Advice on Assessment

*Assessment is a means of gathering information that can be used to determine if your department is accomplishing its mission.*

*Vision paints a picture of the future in words. Start by answering these questions:*

- What is our dream for the department?
- How is our department unique? That is, what makes us proud; how is our department different?
- What do we envision for the future?

*Mission describes the department's identity, purpose and direction.*

- Where are we going?
- How will we get there?

*Goals are broad learning concepts, stated in general terms.*

*Objectives tell the specifics of how you plan to accomplish the stated goals.*

- Describe the exact behaviors students should exhibit at the end of a course, or upon completion of the program.
- Use the objectives to guide decisions about what assessment tools to use.

*Learning Objectives:*

- Cognitive — knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation (Bloom's taxonomy)
- Affective — attitudes and values
- Skills — performance based

*Outcomes Statements:*

- Use action verbs (demonstrate, interpret, perform, construct).
- Focus on student learning or behavior **rather than teacher behavior**.
- Use simple language.
- Describe intended outcomes **rather than subject matter coverage**.
- Avoid using words open to interpretation (e.g., understanding, appreciation, etc.).

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