Assessing Performance in Problem Solving

Student ___________________________ Date ____________________

Check each statement below that accurately describes the student’s work.

— Understand —

____ Reads the problem carefully
____ Studies any tables or graphs
____ Can restate the problem in his or her own words
____ Can identify given information
____ Can identify the question to be answered

— Plan —

____ Chooses an appropriate strategy for solving the problem
____ Estimates what the answer should be

— Solve —

____ Works systematically
____ Shows solution in an organized fashion
____ Computes correctly
____ States the answer in a complete sentence, giving correct units

— Look Back —

____ Checks to see that the answer is reasonable
____ Tries other ways to solve the problem

Use the following criteria to assess the student’s performance:

Level 4 (11–13 items checked) The student demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the problem and communicates that understanding in a clear and concise manner. He or she is able to relate the problem to other work previously accomplished.

Level 3 (8–10 items checked) The student understands the problem and shows a correct solution in a clear and organized fashion.

Level 2 (4–7 items checked) The student displays an adequate understanding of major concepts, but may commit errors in some of the specific components.

Level 1 (0–3 items checked) The student has partial or no apparent understanding of the problem. He or she does not complete the necessary work or uses an inappropriate strategy. No answer, an inappropriate response, or an incorrect answer with no work is shown.