

■ **TABLE 5.6** Summary of Methods for Obtaining Validity Evidence

| Type of Evidence | Procedures |
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| Evidence based on content | Study the construct to measure, examine the test content, and make a decision whether the test content adequately represents the construct. This is usually done by experts. |
| Evidence based on internal structure | First, determine how many dimensions or constructs the test measures using the technique called <i>factor analysis</i> . Second, examine the <i>homogeneity</i> of the items (for the whole test and for each of the subscales if the test measures more than one dimension). You can do this by calculating the <i>item-to-total correlation</i> (for a test measuring only one dimension) and by calculating <i>coefficient alpha</i> for the test and for each subscale for a test measuring more than one dimension. |
| Evidence based on relations to other variables | Relate the test scores to a known criterion by collecting <i>concurrent</i> and/or <i>predictive</i> evidence. Correlate the test scores with measures of the same construct and measures of different constructs to obtain <i>convergent</i> and <i>discriminant</i> evidence. Determine whether groups differ on the test in the way that would be expected (e.g., for a liberalism scale, determine whether Republican Party members differ from Democratic Party members). |