



Assessment & APR Quarterly

A publication from the UNM Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review

December 2019



UNM OA/APR State of Assessment Report

The UNM Office of Assessment & APR (OA) recently completed the 2019 institutional State of Assessment (SOA) and State of APR Reports. Themes were gathered from college/school/branch assessment documents and APRs. The following is a brief overview of the themes; the entire document can be found ([here](#)).

State of Assessment Report Themes

Suggestions:

- More clarity around which templates to use when and how to use them
- Create a standardize introductory assessment module for faculty: “It might also be helpful for the Office of Assessment to create a basic assessment learning module that is required for faculty to complete during a calendar year. If such a module is not practical, a basic assessment practice module could be included in New Faculty Orientation.”

Difficulties, Challenges, and Concerns:

- Staff and Faculty assessment participation is sometimes challenging due to changing roles and personnel transitions
- Graduate Assessment: “The frequency of reporting can especially feel like a burden on smaller programs, which may not find it insightful to report on results from just a few students”

Culture of Assessment:

- Units are reporting improvement in their cultures of assessment, including “developing a strong culture of assessment among the faculty”, and “recognizing the value of doing it well”.

Participation in the Assessment Process:

- Increasing rates of annual plan/report submissions

Continuous Improvement/Results Use:

Units are reporting evidence of results use including:

- “Redesign[ing] our approach and philosophy so that we can obtain more meaningful assessment”
- “In most cases, this data was used to make changes to various curricula throughout the college.”
- “Improved assessment planning”

Strengths:

- Units report benefits to engaging in the assessment process, including “The [department] has strengthened its commitment to looking at different SLOs each year and has used the data to make curricular changes.”
- “Strengthening CARC/Faculty relationships through mentoring and one-on-one meetings”

State of APR Themes

(resulting from multiple review reports and exit meeting commentary from AY18-19):

Exemplary faculty research and scholarship

- “[faculty are] productive at an R-1 level, regularly publishing their work in top presses and top journals”.

Student and Alumni Outcomes

- Distance education was seen as a beneficial component of degree programs, allowing students to pursue further education
- Programs stated that they would like to establish UNM initiatives to collect data on

OA/APR News

The Art & Science of Data: From Numbers to Narratives

Mark your calendars for January 15, 2020!

On January 15, 2020, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, the Office of Assessment/APR and the Office of Institutional Analytics will host a day-long event to empower faculty and staff with training and information on how to leverage institutional data



resources to understand their own units and tell their stories more effectively. The tentative schedule includes presentations from various data/reporting units from across campus who will educate the UNM community on reading and interpreting dashboards, using MyReports to gather disaggregated data, using the NCES IPEDS Data Center, managing departmental assessment data, and best practices in survey research.

The event will take place in **Dane Smith Hall** and registration will include light breakfast and lunch. More information will be published here as it becomes available. The link to register will also be available [here](#) on December 2, 2019.

Proposed Schedule at a Glance

9:00 am	Light Breakfast and Opening Keynote: Dr. Pamela Cheek, Using Data to Tell Your Story
10:00 am	Concurrent Sessions - Block 1
11:00 am	Concurrent Sessions - Block 2
12:00 pm	Lunch and Lightning Rounds
1:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions - Block 3
2:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions - Block 4
3:00 pm	Closing and Data Resource Raffle

post-graduate employment and education.

Marketing

- Reviewers stated that there was a lack of institutional marketing to prospective students in some programs.
- Reviewers recommended that departments advertise themselves through professional relationships with professors at other institutions.

Program responses to previous APRs

- Reporting and communication structure improvements, partly the result of a dedicated network of staff

Departmental Needs

- Reviewers suggested increasing the number of mentorship opportunities amongst faculty and between faculty and students
- Reviewers stated the need to improve departmental communication

Facilities and Resources

- Reviewers identified that some programs had outstanding facilities, including student and faculty spaces for collaboration, research, and teaching, while others were in need of attention
- Reviewers suggested greater institutional involvement regarding facility needs

Next Issue: Your Assessment Questions (and Answers)

Assessment Dates to Remember:

UNM Academic /Degree Submission Deadline	January 31
UNM Gen Ed Assessment Submission Deadline	May 15
UNM Administrative /Co-curricular Submission Deadline	May 31

Conference Dates to Remember:

NMHEAR Conference	Feb 27-28, Hotel Albuquerque Old Town
HLC Conference	April 17-21, Chicago IL

Upcoming OA/APR Spring Workshops (all begin at 10am @DSH 220)

Assessing Using Focus Groups	January 31
UNM Data Pathways and Resources	March 27
Strategic Planning	TBD

Newsletter Submissions:

We are accepting ideas and submissions for our next issues. Please email us at assess@unm.edu before February 15, 2020.

Contact Information:

assess@unm.edu assessment.unm.edu
apr@unm.edu apr.unm.edu

Academic Program Review (APR) News:

General education initiatives from the New Mexico Higher Education Department have prompted the design of an institutional review process for general education programming. This structure, related to unit-level academic program reviews, is being designed for a Fall 2021 implementation and will strive to capture the wide breadth of UNM's general education structure. The Office of Assessment & APR is adopting some processes from the University of Arizona and the University of California Merced as examples in the planning of UNM's own General Education Program Review (GEPR) process.

OA will conduct a Spring 2020 workshop, offered twice. Attendance at one of the workshops is required for programs currently creating their APR self-study report.

APR Self Studies and Data	January 24 & March 6
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Assessment Article Review

Two Underused Best Practices for Improvement Focused Assessments.

Phyllis Blumberg, Ph.D. (2018)

<https://www.rpajournal.com/two-underused-best-practices-for-improvement-focused-assessments/>

Although some think that the purpose of assessment is documenting what is occurring in order to meet accreditation standards (accountability), the assessment process can also be used to continuously improve. This article describes two best practices (planning the intended use of data and identification of bottlenecks) as methods to spur continuous improvement during the assessment process.

Note-Worthy Links

The OA/APR office has revamped their entire [website](#). In addition to **offering additional information and resources**, the information on the site has been organized by assessment type. Take a look and let us know what you think!

In addition to the revisions made at our site, OA/APR has also been working on **guidance and an optional template for administrative/co-curricular assessment**. The template will be finalized shortly, but you can find the admin/co-curricular guidance [here](#).

What's the difference between course and program learning goals? Linda Suskie in her blog "A Common Sense Approach to Assessment in Higher Education" reviews **assessment terminology** [here](#).

The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA)'s Viewpoints offers **assessment guidance** tools, resources, and tips on their page [here](#).

Gen Ed Assessment Roll-Out Follow-Up

The new General Education assessment process is now active! The OA/APR office is accepting submissions using the portal located [here](#). The deadline for GenEd submissions is May 15, but we accept submissions earlier. For those of you that have already submitted artifacts, thank you!

If you have any questions regarding the GenEd process, check UNM's Gen Ed website (gened.unm.edu). As always, the OA/APR staff will always be happy to assist you in this process as well.

Over the last several months, OA/APR staff have been asked about the recertification of courses process that is also underway. For recertification process questions, please contact AP Pamela Cheek at apcurriculum@unm.edu.

What People Are Saying...

As a faculty member who has been involved in developing reports in a variety of capacities at UNM over the past decade, I greatly appreciate your team taking the time to develop the new merged plan/report template in a fillable PDF format! It significantly reduces the time necessary to complete the report while still allowing a high-quality, depth and breadth of information to be included. Thank you so much!

~ **Dr. Glenn Hushman, Associate Professor, Health, Exercise & Sports Science**

Since I'm new to the PA Program, I hadn't used the previous assessment system/form before. Even as a newbie, I found the process and fillable PDF to be straight-forward and efficient.

~ **Elizabeth Hatch, Education Specialist, UNM Physician Assistant Program**

Charla's Data Corner

Ever wondered about the **retention* trends** for your college/school/branch or program?

Did you know that information about retention is readily available through the Office of Institutional Analytics' Tableau dashboards?

You can find **retention rate** trends by gender, ethnicity, major, and more along with other interesting facts about your First-year Cohort students [here](#).

**The Retention Rate definition and formula for how it is calculated can be found in the [Data Dictionary](#).*

