



Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

June 2020



The Rise of the Academic Program Review E-Visit: Innovation at UNM

Over the Spring Semester, UNM's Academic Program Review process had to evolve in order to meet HLC requirements for systematic program reviews while still balancing the travel concerns of APR reviewers. To best accomplish this, OA/APR reformatted our normal APR site-visit process to an "e-visit", where reviewers could meet with various groups within a unit, as well as senior leadership, and present their thoughts and recommendations through Zoom. This is a format we are introducing for any upcoming APRs that may be affected by continuing travel concerns. To help re-envision this process, the Anderson School of Management conducted a regularly scheduled APR from April 30th - May 1st using an e-visit format.

Like any other APR, the reviewers met with faculty, students, and external groups, as well as with senior Academic Affairs leadership over the course of two days. At the end of the second day, the review team readily shared preliminary thoughts and recommendations with the school and Academic Affairs leadership. Afterwards, the review team and Anderson School provided invaluable feedback on the e-visit process and format, so that we could smooth over the inaugural hiccups for future e-visits. Reviewers said they:

"found the modality worked well. It was easy to visit with the different groups via Zoom"

"learned a lot about conducting this kind of review"

"had not done this particular type of review and found it very interesting"

The office is reaching out to upcoming Fall APRs with more information on this process, and how best to conduct APRs given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNM Faculty Experience Survey

On behalf of the Office of the Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs, OA/APR conducted a faculty experience survey to gather information about how faculty have experienced the transition to limited operations at UNM in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our sincere thanks for the fantastic responses and contribution - our office received over 900 survey responses from UNM's faculty & teaching body! Also, a big thanks to the OIA for providing expertise and contribution to this project.

OA/APR News

COVID 19 Pandemic Update

The Office of Assessment & APR continues to operate remotely, offering the same support services that we have in the past, but virtually for the time-being. You are always welcome to contact the staff individually, or email at assess@unm.edu.

APR Action Plans Reminder

Annual APR Action Plan updates are due to the office on December 15th, 2020. These updates may be due sooner depending on internal college/school deadlines.

AY2018-2019 Academic Unit Assessment

Thank you for submitting your assessment reports to the Office of Assessment & APR for AY 18-19!

We read reports from every college/school/branch and provided feedback to your assessment contact/leadership/CARC chair. Your reports are an invaluable part of the assessment process, where results show:

- When curriculum is introduced in a degree path or possibly in a course sequence
- What areas to enhance with curriculum
- How to expand student learning opportunities
- Ways to connect, teach or mentor students when results indicate lower student participation or scores than expected
- The role of a capstone or equivalent cumulative project
- Ways in which students can articulate knowledge in a better manner
- Assessment measures that will measure SLO's appropriately
- Your current grading processes
- Study habits to help your student population
- New student learning outcomes

Our office is seeing incredible uses of assessment results from many programs across UNM, and we appreciate your meaningful approaches and intentional ways of employing them to benefit from this process. We can customize any workshop, meet with you virtually during office hours, or plan a fall assessment talk with your unit to get your next AY assessment to an even better place.

FREE Assessment Training Opportunity!

Several times a year, the Student Affairs Assessment Leaders professional network offers a free, online, 8-week course (massive open online course - MOOC) that provides self-paced instruction on Applying and Leading Assessment in Student Affairs. Although the course title references student affairs, it is still extremely useful for anyone who is new to assessment. From its [website](#), the course:

- Reviews concepts that contribute to sound, sustainable assessment practice.
- Explores the development of foundational assessment components including planning, articulating goals and outcomes, and providing feedback.
- Identifies strategies for guiding assessment efforts across multiple functional areas and teams.
- Discovers ways to translate data to a story of student success with a plan for action.

The eight modules are a mix of readings, instructional videos, and group chats with the other students that are enrolled. The modules are self-paced, so more than one module can be completed at a particular sitting. Each time the course is offered, there are about 500 other students completing the course over the same time, which contributes to the richness of the conversation and a wide array of experiences and viewpoints.

The course is offered through a partnership with National Louis University and coordinated within SAAL by the Professional Development Committee. Questions about the course may be directed to the saassessmentleaders@gmail.com. Future course offerings are determined annually and not necessarily in advance. If you are interested in participating in the next class, watch for the opening at www.studentaffairsassessment.org.

New to Assessment?

We've got the Resources You Need!

The Office of Assessment & APR has developed a video that will help guide you through the use of our new merged plan/report template! It offers tips and instruction on how to develop program goals, SLOs, and other required information as well as navigating the form itself. The PLAN section video (when posted), will be available [here](#). The REPORT section video will follow soon, as well as a guidance video for using the administrative/co-curricular template.

We have also extensively revised our assessment manual and it will be available online soon. The new manual is easier to follow, more concise, and is reflective of the new assessment templates.

UNM OA's Implementation of an Evaluation/Strategic Planning Hybrid Model for Administrative/Co-Curricular Assessment

OA staff recently presented at NMHEAR about our progress on making assessment more meaningful for non-academic programs. Our new model moves the assessment process closer to the strategic planning process, providing the opportunity to develop (and reach) goals that can be organizational, unit, or employee focused rather than be tied to student learning outcomes.

The new model encourages non-academic programs to connect their mission and vision statements, goals, and objectives/outcomes. The remaining parts of a traditional strategic plan (strategies, action plans, and tasks) are not mandatory but acknowledged as very helpful if/when they are included. The new template (available [here](#)), provides questions for each topic that are intended to prompt in-depth consideration. Some of the questions that are provide include:

- **What does your unit strive to do?**
- **What resources do you need?**
- **What data are you going to collect to measure your progress?)**

Programs that already have plans in place can continue to use their process -use of the template is NOT mandatory.

Ultimately, the new approach is expected to assist with the continuing improvement of UNM administrative/co-curricular programs and an increased ability to goal set, problem solve, and measure the quality and impact of the unit's services in fulfilling the University's mission and goals. Several programs have begun implementing the new process with noticeable impact and success, including the Office of Advising Services and Academic Communities programs.

Note-Worthy Links

UNM's Center for Digital Learning (CDL) offers dozens of **webinars and workshops** for guidance on teaching online, as well as other topics. Click [here](#) for more information.

Huda Sarraj, Ph.D., Director of Assessment and Accreditation at the University of Houston has used Tableau to develop an **interactive curriculum map**. Follow this [link](#) and scroll down the page to see this amazing work in action!

Trying to assess the impact that **student employment** has on a student's academic success? Iowa Grow ([link](#)) uses brief, structured conversations between student employees and their supervisors to help students connect the skills and knowledge they are gaining in the classroom with the work they are doing.

An upcoming book to be published by Stylus aims to provide a foundation on issues of **equity and assessment** to assist higher education faculty and staff in implementing equitable assessment at different levels throughout higher education. To share an activity or example of equitable assessment practice, please fill out the [form](#).

Newsletter Submissions:

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

Contact Information:

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

Upcoming OA/APR Fall Workshops (all begin at 10am and are expected to be held online via Zoom)

Strategic Planning

September*

This session will provide an overview of the strategic planning process and how it can be applied to the assessment/evaluation process. The primary parts of a strategic plan (mission, vision, goals, objectives/outcomes, and strategies) and the differences between each will be discussed.

Assessment Jumpstart

September*

This is a one hour workshop that provides information about UNM's assessment processes, cycle and critical dates. If you are new to assessment or would like a refresher on academic unit or general education assessment, please attend!

General Education Assessment

October*

To be determined...the session will be based on our results, and we are still analyzing!

APR Data Workshop

November*

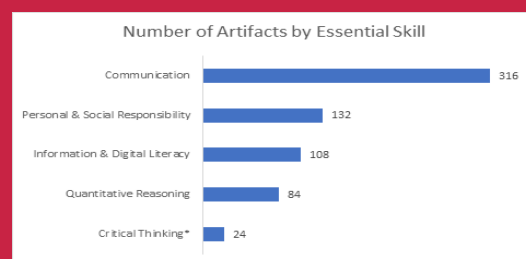
APR Self Study reports require detailed information about unit enrollment, retention, and graduation as well as information about recent graduates and alumni. This workshop was developed (and is required) for those undergoing an APR visit in the upcoming year and will provide resources for collecting/visualizing APR data.

*** Exact dates for each workshop will be determined soon.**

Charla's Data Corner

General Education Assessment Updates

A big thank you to all who have submitted General Education artifacts for our assessment process this year. We received over 700 pieces of student work to review for the 5 Essential Skills from across the University, including North Campus and our Branches! The visual below shows that Communication was the most common Essential Skill this year, followed by Personal & Social Responsibility.



*Critical Thinking is not being assessed this year

Tech Days @ Home

This year, as with most other conferences and gatherings, Tech Days moved to a virtual event to accommodate COVID-19 limited operations restrictions. While the live sessions were held already on June 4th, there are several pre-recorded sessions available for viewing here. New this year: there is a special "data track," with sessions from our colleagues in Enrollment Management and the Office of Institutional Analytics! Be sure to give those a glance!