

University of New Mexico- Los Alamos (UNM-LA) State of Assessment Report

2013-2014 Assessment Period

Overview:

UNMLA has been doing general education assessment for many years as well as course assessment of most other courses. For faculty who have been with UNM-LA for several years, this course assessment is routine. New faculty are routinely mentored by their department chairs to learn the assessment process. It is sometimes difficult to create meaningful course assessment with TPT faculty on whom we largely depend. This fall we made a significant effort on program assessment with the development of an Academic Program Assessment Plan for all of our Associate degrees. The college has 9 academic departments. There are 17 active programs and 3 that are currently under review and scheduled for elimination. This year we had challenges completing the Annual Report on Program Assessment for three of our ongoing Associate degrees. The problems included technical difficulties and other issues. Our Certificate programs are small and are being re-evaluated for continuation. They were not part of this year's Program Assessment plans and reports.

Beginning two years ago, UNM-LA began planning for assessment across all units in the form of an Institutional Effectiveness (IE) program. Four people from instruction, student services, and business services attended IE conferences and meet monthly as a group as well as working within their units to develop IE processes.

Specifically related to academic assessment, we also have established monthly department chairs meetings designated to assessment. We have an active CARC team that meets twice per semester. We have also increased the quality of resources, the availability of resources, and improved the process of reporting and sharing data. Specifically, we have added an Assessment page to our UNM-LA website with the forms, timelines, and links to additional resources. We have designed templates for the reports which allow for more efficient reporting, and we have created a central housing unit on the local shared (S) drive and on TK20 for documentation.

Academic Program Maturity Rubric Scoring and Evaluation

The overall state of assessment at UNM-LA is greatly improved this academic year as compared to prior years. With the efforts of the Institutional Effectiveness (IE) program over the past two years emphasizing the importance of pursuing campus wide continuous improvement efforts, the climate has changed. The environment and attitude toward academic assessment has moved beyond the "exercise" of preparing assessment reports, to focusing on the important process of developing plans and processes to document our efforts to improve. This year we focused efforts on Program Assessment by developing or revising Program Assessment Plans for every Associate degree program that we offer. Annual Reports on Academic Programs were prepared, and reviewed by CARC for 14 of the 17 Associate Degree programs. Because this was the first year for many of the programs to have approved plans, we were not able to document significant actions implemented during this reporting period.

As stated in the last paragraph of the Overview section, we have implemented many changes that will improve our academic assessment in 2014-2015. These include monthly department chairs meetings designated to work on assessment issues, an active CARC team, redesigned templates, an Assessment page to our UNM-LA website, an Assessment file on our UNM-LA shared (S) drive, and training that increased our use of TK20.

We will work toward including certificate programs, documenting significant actions implemented, and improving our implementation for assessment in all programs for 2014-2015.