



Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

February 2021



2021 Art & Science of Data Recap!

With over 200 registrants, the 2021 Art & Science of Data event was a great success. Some of the topics covered included:

- Data & Equity
- Data Visualizations
- Pivot Tables
- Meaningful Analysis

All session materials and recordings are available [here](#). In the past event survey, folks who attended said they **appreciated the virtual format** and **liked learning about campus data resources while connecting with other data personnel**. Keep an eye peeled for these spin-off workshops, dates to be determined:

1. Think Like an Analyst
2. Getting to Know UNM Data Sources
3. Surveys A-Z (from creation to analysis)

Thank you to all who attended and/or presented! The event could not have succeeded without you! Next year's event has been set for Wednesday, **January 12, 2022!** Please save the date! The post event survey revealed that:

Sessions were informative (4.23/5)

Participants feel slightly more confident in their data knowledge and skills after the event (3.63/5)

Participants feel their awareness of data resources at UNM increased after the event (4.04/5)

63% of survey respondents attended a session in all 4 session blocks.

APR News

APR Website Updates

Results from our Office Service Survey revealed that the APR website is in need of updates, along with a general restructuring to best present information to those undergoing a program review. We found several sections of the website where information can be streamlined, and where we can eliminate some unnecessary redundancy. While the website (apr.unm.edu) is undergoing this update, we ask for patience in case of broken links and other remnants of the restructuring. Please feel free to reach out to apr@unm.edu if you come across any issues while navigating the site!

APR Timeline - Visual

In addition to revising and updating the APR website, survey results also pointed to a need for better clarity on APR timelines (site visit dates, self-study deadlines, etc). To better present this information, we are constructing a timeline visual that will be provided to programs following their APR orientation, as well as incorporated on the APR website. Please keep an eye out!

APR Data Policies

We will begin providing data packages to programs and departments undergoing APRs, starting with those scheduled for a Fall 2021 visit. Data packages will be sourced from OIA dashboards, will consist of the most recent 5 years of data, and include data for the following undergraduate and graduate metrics – Enrollment, Retention, Graduation Rates, Student Credit Hours, and UNM Enrollment Trends. When applicable, these metrics will include demographic breakdowns. We will contact programs about these data packages on a rolling basis, and programs will be asked to provide the specific degrees that should be included in these data packages.

Common Assessment Mistakes

To aid in the development of your assessment plan, we have been developing a list of common mistakes that occur when deciding on program goals, SLOs, and other tools. These four excerpted from a longer list that will be posted on our [website](#) by March 1.

Mistake: Measuring more than one behavior in each outcome

Example: Students will effectively communicate in an oral and written manner

Reason: There are two types of communication to be assessed: "oral" and "written". This outcome is written so that the student has to perform well in both types to demonstrate effective communication.

Mistake: Developing complex and multi-layered outcomes.

Example: Students will identify, research, summarize and evaluate a research problem

Reason: When having multi-layered outcomes, students may demonstrate excellence in some behaviors and not others. It is best to separate the layers to understand the specific learning that needs to be targeted for improvement.

Mistake: Constructing outcomes that do not align with your targeted population or sample of students

Example: Students of 1000-level courses will demonstrate mastery in advanced research methods

Reason: It is a high expectation for students in a 1000-level course to attain "mastery" in advanced research methods.

Mistake: Developing outcomes that assess something other than student learning (e.g., employment or graduation)

Example: X% of students will graduate the program

Reason: Outcomes should be focused on student learning, not on potential program outcomes.

Thank You!

We would like to thank Roberta from Taos branch for her service on the PCA and her contribution to the assessment process at Taos. We would also like to welcome Amie, who is the new assessment coordinator at Taos!

We would also like to thank all assessment coordinators and their teams for submitting their academic assessment plans and reports before the deadline of January 31!

Contact Information:

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

Newsletter Submissions:

We are accepting ideas and submissions for our next issue. Please email us at assess@unm.edu before May 1, 2021.

Assessment Submission Deadlines:

General Education Program
- **May 15** for 2020-2021 submissions

Co-curricular Units - **May 31**

The OA/APR Is Looking For Six Graduate Assistants

Please encourage your top-notch graduate students to apply at the OGS employment board as of March 1st, 2021! Here are the details:

Position duties and responsibilities include:

- Complete FERPA training
- Complete required rubric analysis training
- Analyze and rate student work with a focus on critical thinking skills
- Record/document ratings and analysis process
- Submit ratings to the Office of Assessment team
- Participate in weekly team meetings

Requirements for consideration include:

- Available June 7th- July 2nd, 2020 for 20 hours per week
- Attend weekly office team meetings (virtual)
- 1-2 years GA/TA/PA experience
- Ability to work individually in a fast-paced work environment
- Ability to work in a team setting and follow prescribed guidelines

Preferred Qualifications are:

- Educational data, classroom assessment or rubric use/analysis experience

Strategic Planning Roundtable Discussions

In response to the success of our Strategic Planning Workshops, we are **offering a strategic planning roundtable discussion session entitled Engaging (or Re-Engaging) with Strategic Planning** on February 26 at 10am, via Zoom. Register [here](#). The new format will feature speakers that will be part of this series in the future, once we identify your needs. They will share and give insights on crafting or having completed a strategic plan, and will discuss topics like:

- buy-in
- hurdles
- benefits of the process
- helpful hints
- timeline

Note-Worthy Links

Student Affairs Assessment Leaders (SAAL) announced a new podcast, titled, SAAL Assessment Shared Stories (SASS) that will serve as an audio-narrative space to share assessment strategies, stories and thoughts on Student Affairs assessment and research. You can access the podcast [here](#).

The Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) is requesting your assistance to improve the AALHE [website](#) by completing a short survey about AALHE website functionality. The survey can be found [here](#).

Looking for an assessment conference to attend in 2021? Try this [list](#) by NILOA, this [one](#) from the University of Kentucky, or this [list](#) from the University of Oklahoma.

New Drop-In Hours!

We're available for individual or group consultations every Friday morning via Zoom. Drop in to discuss assessment and APR topics by using this [Zoom link](#). As always, you can email assess@unm.edu or apr@unm.edu if you have any questions regarding this new format or have trouble login in.

Upcoming OA/APR Spring Workshops (all begin at 10am on Fridays and are online via Zoom)

Please use [this](#) registration link for session details and to sign up for any session described below:

Strategic Planning February 19

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.

Introduction to Data Viz March 5

Transforming your data into easy-to-understand visuals allows constituents to "get your point" quickly and hooks them into wanting to learn or read more. This 90-minute session will cover the basics of data visualization and introduce using pivot tables to create interactive dashboards in Excel. No previous experience with Excel is needed. Additional guidance will be available after the workshop.

APR Self Studies & Data March 26

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.

Meaningful Analysis April 9

You've done your survey. Or maybe you've explored MyReports. You've got your data. Now what? In this session, we'll talk about how to explore your data, find the story, and bring it to life in a way that is meaningful to your constituents. We will discuss avoiding the initial overwhelm, summarizing and theming your quantitative data, knowing when to "dig deeper," and using data as evidence in your story. Real life data will be shared to illustrate each concept.

Charla's Data Corner

Last year, I was fortunate enough to participate in the UNM Continuing Education Data Science Bootcamp, hosted by the Data Science Dojo. This year, the Bootcamp moves online but still offers a comprehensive curriculum that teaches professionals how to extract actionable insights from data, through 48 hours of live instruction. With a mix of theory, hands-on labs, math, science, and engineering the bootcamp will cover:

- the fundamentals of data science,
- basic functions of R Programming,
- Amazon and Azure tools for data science and engineering, and more!

I highly recommend the course for anyone hoping to get a deep dive into data analytics! The 16-week online course is eligible for employee tuition remission and will be offered in the Spring (beginning March 23) and Summer (beginning June 9). Learn more [here](#).

