



Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

September 2019



**Special:
Assessing
the New
Gen Ed**

What You Need to Know

Essential Skills:

As all of you know by now, the New Mexico Higher Education Department updated its model for General Education (GE) to focus on Essential Skills. The change from course analysis of content areas to the analysis of essential skill within those areas has already begun with this Fall 2019 semester. The five NMHED Essential Skills are:

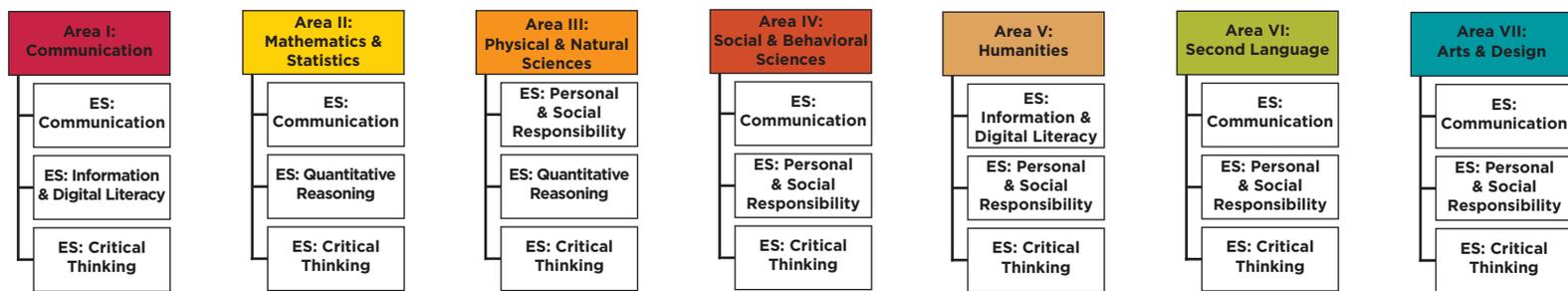


Changes to the Assessment Model:

In the past, assessment was performed on a course-by-course basis in each content area, with instructors and programs required to develop Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) independently. In addition, there was no GE program review. The new directive requires essential skill analysis across the GE programming, and there is no need to develop assessment plans and individual SLOs because they have been already developed.

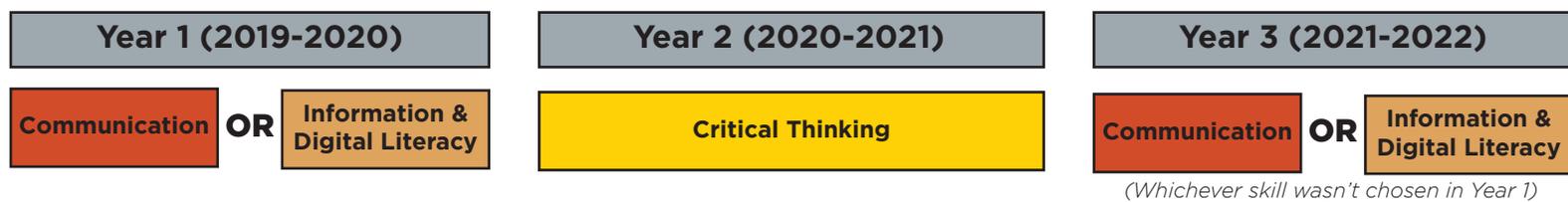
Curriculum Mapping

The NMHED has mapped the new Essential Skills to the existing General Education Content Areas as shown in the figure below. As evidenced by this mapping, the expectation is that students will be exposed to and attain three (3) Essential Skills in each Content Area. For NMHED General Education purposes, Critical Thinking is the only Essential Skill that transcends all Content Areas. More information about each skill can be found [here](#).



Schedule

The content areas that apply to your program will dictate which (and when) Essential Skills are assessed each year. A full description of the three year cycle is available [here](#). For example, if your Core Curriculum Area is **Communication**, the schedule would be as follows:



Student Assignments

Student assignments/artifacts that reflect the Essential Skills will be collected mid to end of each semester. They will be submitted to the Office of Assessment using the fillable form located [here](#). The submitted assignments will be rated with skill rubrics found [here](#) by a team of OA external reviewers. As mentioned above, GE will be assessed on a three year cycle, with one essential skill per year. Instructors will submit 1 fillable form with a minimum of 4 assignments to OA by **May 15**, unless otherwise arranged with the Office of Assessment & APR.

What About Existing GE Assessments?

Ongoing GE assessments for Fall 2019 will conclude by the end of 2019. All "old" GE reports (those for areas 6 & 7 in the previous assessment process) will need to be submitted to the Office of Assessment, as in the past, by January 31, 2020. That said, collection of artifacts for the new GE assessment will begin in Fall 2019.

Need More Help?

The Office of Assessment is ready to assist everyone in this new assessment process. If you have any questions, please call **277-4130** or email assess@unm.edu to schedule a consultation. You may also want to view these informative websites regarding the transition process:

- [NMHED Essential Skills and Content Areas](#)
- [Office of Assessment GE upload form website](#)
- [UNM Gen Ed website](#)

Merged Assessment Plan and Report in PDF format

The Office of Assessment has developed a new plan and report form that has been merged into one PDF document. The new form was considered and reviewed by OA staff and the PCA. In order to facilitate the move to the new form, OA staff moved active plans to the new form and distributed them for review in August. The new plan/report form is available online [here](#).

New Assessment Inventory

Over the summer, OA staff completely revised the repository inventory and developed a companion chart that easily conveys data about information that resides in the repository and what types of files are located there. OA staff will be reviewing the chart with schools, branches, and programs throughout the Fall semester.

Assessment Plans Up To Date

We would like to remind you to **review your existing assessment plans** and their active date range. An assessment plan should not be older than 3-5 years. If your plans are close to that age, you will need to begin creating an update. If you would like assistance with the development of a new plan, contact us at 277-1728.

Article Review - General Education Edition

A Brief History of General Education.
Terry O'Banion (2016)
[web link](#)

As documented by Terry O'Banion, the current state and concerns of higher education core curriculum has a storied, ideological history. Arising from a new vision of the older aristocratic traditions of education, and a changing population at higher-ed institutions following the first World War, the 20th century saw a rapid and continual transformation of what is called the "general education" of a university, with many conflicting ideas coming into play. O'Banion's parsing of this history is a brief but fascinating glimpse into the roots of modern general education, offering important context to ideas most often taken for granted at an institutional level.

Newsletter Submissions:

We are accepting ideas and submissions for our next issues. Please email us at assess@unm.edu before December 15, 2019.

Contact Information:

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Note-Worthy Links

Interested in the **history** of General Education? Click [here](#) for a peer reviewed article from the Association of American Colleges & Universities.

Looking for the **new form** to upload Gen Ed assignments/artifacts? It's right [here](#).

Want more information about **UNM's General Education Curriculum**? Click [here](#).

The Office of Assessment & APR has released their fall schedule for **upcoming workshops**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Assessment Leaders...

Office of Advising Strategies

The 2016 Advisement Assessment Plan was overly complicated and Julie helped me focus our goals to something that would help us understand how to improve advising services. As a result, we discovered many things in the process of writing our latest Assessment Report. This summer, both Julie and Bill helped us revise our plan (www.advisingplan.com) and they have been a wonderful resource, and feel like we have a well-developed plan going forward.

Laura Valdez,

Director, Office of Advising Strategies

Academic Program Review (APR) News:

Upcoming APRs:

- Department of Art - Oct 21-22, 2019
- Water Resources Program - Nov 4-5, 2019
- Department of History - Nov 11-12, 2019

Choosing an External Reviewer:

An integral, and sometimes daunting, part of the program review process is the selection of external reviewers. Who would make a good reviewer? Who would not? What criteria should be followed during selection? [This](#) Chronicle of Higher Education article offers helpful tips when selecting reviewers, and discusses common issues that can be avoided.

Charla's Data Corner

Have you ever found yourself wondering how we calculate graduation rate? What exactly is the "First-Time, Full-Time" classification? And what's the difference between the "freshman cohort" and "freshman classification"?

Over the summer, the Office of Institutional Analytics in collaboration with the OA has developed a Data Dictionary to help alleviate confusion around common data variables used at UNM and in necessary state and federal reporting. To review common data terms and their definitions, please check out the newly published data dictionary [here](#).

In other news, Charla will be changing her last name. So if you see emails from or events hosted by Charla Orozco, that's still her! Thanks!

