



Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

August 2021



Academic Unit Assessment Updates

In AY19-20, academic assessment **submissions for all degree programs at main and branch campuses increased 7.4% overall**. Undergraduate academic assessment submissions also increased at UNM main and branch campuses.

- Undergraduate Submissions (Main Campus): 75.2%; an **increase of 7.9%** from last year
- Undergraduate Submissions (Branch Campuses*): 71.1%; **an increase of 22.2%** from last year
- Total Undergraduate Submissions: 74.1%; an **increase of 12.6%** from last year
- Graduate submissions: 61.9%; **an increase of 2.6%** from last year

* not including Los Alamos branch

The Office of Assessment & APR have gained good insights from this year's academic assessment reports. Here are some **assessment topics** that we have discovered and should lead to fruitful discussions with your instructors/faculty, leadership, and assessment committees to start off the academic year:

- **Assessment planning/reporting was challenging due to low faculty engagement.** What are ways your college/school/branch can engage and motivate faculty to complete assessments as well as address potential hurdles? What messages are you sending about meaningful and useful assessment? In what ways are you keeping the assessment conversation going?
- **Academic units identified particular weaknesses in their assessment practices (e.g., assessment measures, results use, and/or student learning outcomes).** What is one area you can strengthen in your programming regarding assessment? How can you make this actionable? Did you know the Office of Assessment & APR will provide support, including one-on-one consultations, customized workshops, and helping facilitate faculty discussions?
- **Programs indicated that they are reaching their benchmarks and are maturing in their assessment processes.** Once plateaued, and the same assessment results are experienced year after year, new student learning outcomes or new benchmarks should be set. Discussing the trends and patterns from assessment data is critical for continuous improvement over time, not only for student populations and instruction, but also for the assessment process to continue to be purposeful.

Critical Thinking Assessment



Thank you for participating in UNM's inaugural year of assessing the general education essential skill of **Critical Thinking**. With **841 student assignments submitted**, we have a robust set of data that we are currently analyzing. Your college/school/branch individualized reports will be distributed by September 1st, 2021! Please ask your leadership or assessment contact for these results or contact us at assess@unm.edu.

Here is what we know so far:

- UNM rated **2.15** in critical thinking (using a 3- point scale) **when assignments aligned** with the UNM critical thinking rubric. Overall, students are performing at a **"developing"** level.
- UNM rated **1.99** in critical thinking **when assignments were not aligned** with the UNM critical thinking rubric. This means students are performing at a **"highly emerging"** level.
- **Assignment alignment** with a while evaluating a general education essential skill (such as critical thinking), plays an important role in assessing student performance. It is **imperative for instructors to review the general education essential skill rubrics to align assignments before administering them**. When assignments are aligned, ratings focus on student skill building and proficiency rather than on the representation of critical thinking in the assignment design. As noted above, ratings improve when assignments are aligned to the critical skill being evaluated.

Attention Administrative/Co-curricular Units!

Beginning in 2020, we began an **outreach program to engage co-curricular programs in the assessment process and encourage the development of assessment plans**. This outreach included workshops, one-on-one consultations, topic-specific round tables, ongoing support, and the development of a range of planning aids including a co-curricular assessment template.

For the last academic year, **nine programs submitted plans** and/or reports, up from two the previous year. Thank you to the programs that participated in AY 20-21:

- Office of Advising Services
- Academic Communities
- Career Services
- African American Student Services
- Women's Resource Center
- Veteran and Military Resource Center
- College Enrichment Program
- LGBTQ Resource Center
- Office of Assessment & APR

We are providing detailed feedback to each program by mid-September. The feedback will be used to continue supporting programs. If you are looking to establish an assessment plan or have been delayed in submitting one to our office, please contact us at assess@unm.edu. We would like to provide you with feedback and help you with your assessment plans moving forward!

We are currently developing an assessment reporting workshop for programs as they begin to complete their assessment reports this coming year. We will be contacting you for this fall workshop soon!

Thank You and Good Luck!

For those of you who have had the pleasure to work with Charla Orozco know what a privilege it is to experience her dedication, collaboration, and inspiration! She has meant a great deal to the OA/APR and will now take her data skills and hard work to UNM's Office of Institutional Analytics. A very warm thank you to Charla for establishing data best practices within our office. A big wishes as she joins her new team and becomes a data leader at our institution. We congratulate you!

State of APR – Main Themes

In AY20-21, seven Academic Program Reviews were conducted, with programs representing the College of Fine Arts, the School of Architecture & Planning, and the College of Arts & Sciences. Due to coronavirus pandemic constraints, all seven were hosted online through Zoom. From self-studies and review team reports, **four main themes** emerged:

- **Academic curricula at UNM are strong and well-positioned** to teach students effectively, while also fulfilling needs across department/programs and NMED general education mandates.
- **Low faculty and staffing levels are a concern** and cause issues with facility space, advising, teaching loads, among others, and are inherently unsustainable.
- **Academic facilities were at times lacking** and were often at a tipping point due to space management concerns. Some teams also noted issues of systemic safety concerns.
- **Diverse faculty represent their student bodies well.** Teams noted that units are also proactively constructing curricula that increases the focus on critical contemporary issues.

The full State of APR report will be posted at unm.apr.edu.

APR News

Fall AY21-22 Scheduled APRs

- Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences (HESS)
- Optical Sciences
- Communication & Journalism
- Special Education
- Economics

Spring 2022 Scheduled APRs

- Combined BA/MD Program
- Nanoscience & Microsystems
- Teacher Education, Educational Leadership & Policy (TEELP)
- Theatre & Dance

Drop-In Hours!

We're available for individual or group consultations every Friday morning at 9am via Zoom. Drop in to discuss assessment, APR, or strategic planning 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 format or have trouble logging in.

Upcoming OA/APR Fall 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:

Renewing Assessment Plans

September 10

As part of the assessment cycle, plans should be renewed every 3-5 years. This session will focus on developing and/or revising SLOs and reviewing assessment methods.

Understanding the APR Data Packet

September 17

This workshop was developed for those undergoing an APR visit in the upcoming year and will focus on understanding the APR data packet.

Developing Retrospective (Post-Pre) Surveys

September 24

This session offers an introduction and guidance to developing and using retrospective surveys as an assessment tool.

General Education Assessment

October 1

Join us for General Education assessment updates, reflections, and next steps.

Strategic Planning

October 15

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.

(Spooky) Data Visualization Principles

October 29

This 90-minute session will cover the basics of data visualization and introduce using pivot tables to create interactive dashboards in Excel.

Rubric Analysis

November 5

After rubric development and data collection, what is next? We will discuss best ways to norm and utilize rubrics for meaningful and reliable analysis.

Repository Upload Training

January 28, 2022

In this workshop, we'll review the steps you'll need to follow in order to upload your assessment materials to the institutional repository.

Note-Worthy Links

Looking for examples of goals and assessment plans for discipline-specific programs? This [document](#) from the University of Delaware Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning provides several links to quality examples for each program.

In August, the AAC&U released a [blog post reflecting on course redesign and how faculty can measure impacts of instructional changes](#). It's a short article, but it is packed with steps and guidance on implementing and managing change, as well as measuring results.

The Assessment Institute at IUPUI will be held on October 24-27, 2021. Virtual attendance is free, including the Pre-Institute workshops on Sunday October 24! Click [here](#) for the registration page.

Contact Information:

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Newsletter Submissions:

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