



# Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

March 2019

## Welcome!

The Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review proudly announce the creation and development of The Assessment & APR Quarterly, a quarterly newsletter that is dedicated to assessment and academic program review news, developments, and updates all packaged in an easy to read format!

### The UNM Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review

In November 2017, the UNM Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review (OA) was restructured. The OA is now comprised of a Director (Julie Sanchez, Ph.D), an Institutional Researcher (Charla Henley, M.A.), an APR Specialist (Samuel Hatch), an Assessment Specialist (William Slauson, M.P.A.), an Administrative Coordinator (Michael Russo, M.A.), and a Graduate Assistant (Susmitha Udayan, M.A.). More information about the OA's updated mission and vision can be found [here](#).

As depicted in the graphic to the right, the OA has had a busy first year in action, conducting 15 individual consultations; 42 hours of walk-in sessions where staff helped with assessment, data, and APR questions; 12 APRs; and 10 workshops on relevant topics.

Building off the highlights described above, the OA staff are now working to streamline requirements of the assessment and APR processes; provide feedback and analysis on submitted assessment and APR documents; revise the assessment manual; revise assessment planning and reporting templates; develop new data workshops about visualization and dissemination of data; and implement the new general education assessment plan (mandated by the New Mexico Higher Education Department).

The University of New Mexico just concluded its site visit with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in March 2019. The Assessment Team came across this glossary of terms that assists peer reviewers and institutions in their efforts to assess institutional performance with regard to Criterion Four (Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement). Follow this link: [http://download.hlcommission.org/initiatives/StudentSuccessGlossaryofTerms\\_2019.pdf](http://download.hlcommission.org/initiatives/StudentSuccessGlossaryofTerms_2019.pdf)



## Focus on APR

Through Academic Program Review, faculty, staff, community, and external reviewers collaborate to improve degree programs and to provide a mechanism for programs to examine and reflect on their achievements, goals, and strategic plans for the future throughout a seven year cycle. The APR ensures that academic programs:

1. provide opportunities to learn that are of high quality and are in line with professional and national standards;
2. foster meaningful research;
3. engage with the life of the university; and
4. serve constituents or identified communities.

APR offers faculty, deans, and Academic Affairs the information necessary for considering the role of the program in the university and for exploring the program's support of, and relation to, university strategic goals. Lastly, APR secures documentation to demonstrate the value of UNM's programs to the state and the community while also satisfying criteria for Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation of the university as a whole.

### APR Article Review

**Avoiding the Potholes of Program Review, Halonen and Dunn 2017**

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Avoiding-the-Potholes-of/239330>

In their article "Avoiding the Potholes of Program Review", Halonen and Dunn lay out several common "potholes" that programs and university administration fall into when conducting academic program reviews. Between the two of them, Halonen and Dunn have conducted "more than 70" program reviews" and have seen which potholes are common occurrence. The two go on to provide ways to avoid these issues, or minimize them so that they do not derail the review process.

Our experience with the APR team was not just helpful but instructive. They focused us on the right things for the review and assisted us in preparing for it. Their expertise in outcome assessment, among other things, was invaluable. In fact, they helped us get ready for a subsequent reaccreditation review. The APR team is an important resource for UNM.

Bruce J. Perlman, Ph.D.  
Director and Regents' Professor  
School of Public Administration

My advice to programs going through APR is to start early and work closely with the APR team who will address your needs and guide you along the way. This APR office has an incredible team that will support you from start to finish.

Lani Gunawardena  
Distinguished Professor  
and APR Committee Chair  
Organization, Information and Learning Sciences (OILS) Program  
College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences

## Assessment Article Review

**Stuck in the Assessment Swamp?**  
Kevin Gannon, Grand View University 2017  
<https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1785-stuck-in-the-assessment-swamp>

In his article *Stuck in the Assessment Swamp?*, Gannon discusses the rhetoric that commonly accompanies the assessment process within higher education (feeling compelled to assess as busy work that doesn't matter). Additionally, he discusses the absolute need for assessment in a moment in time where common discourse outside higher education frequently questions the worth of the higher education degree and experience. This short read suggests ways to motivate ourselves to assess what really matters and fight the common discourse with evidence of student learning from the classroom. If you are feeling like you might be *stuck in the assessment swamp*, definitely give this article a read.

### Newsletter Submissions:

We are accepting ideas and submissions for our next issues. Please email us at [assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu) before June 15, 2019.

### Upcoming Important Dates:

Computer Science and English APR Site Visits:  
April 2019

### Contact Information:

[assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu) [assessment.unm.edu](http://assessment.unm.edu)  
[apr@unm.edu](mailto:apr@unm.edu) [apr.unm.edu](http://apr.unm.edu)

## Question of the Issue:

How do you use your collected assessment data to inform your curriculum and teaching approach?

Send your response to [assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu) and we will publish them in our next issue!

## Note-Worthy Links

**Data Help?**— Do you have a bunch of data in Microsoft Excel that you don't know what to do with? Check out this [Excel website](#) for ideas on formulas you can use to analyze your data!

Ready to get started with visualizations? [Here](#) (stephanieevergreen.com) are some innovative data visualization ideas and guidelines on how to create them in Microsoft Excel!

**Assessment Listserv**— If you would like to receive more information about webinars and professional development opportunities in assessment, please consider joining the ASSESS listserv. ASSESS is hosted by the University of Kentucky Department of [Educational Policy Studies & Evaluation](#) and is managed by the UK College of Education in collaboration with the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE). A blog post from the ASSESS listserv [Why Do I Assess?](#) had many responses and is worth a read.

**Assessment Conference**—2019 [Assessment Institute](#) in Indianapolis, October 13-15, 2019. The Institute, hosted by IUPUI, is now the nation's oldest and largest event of its type.