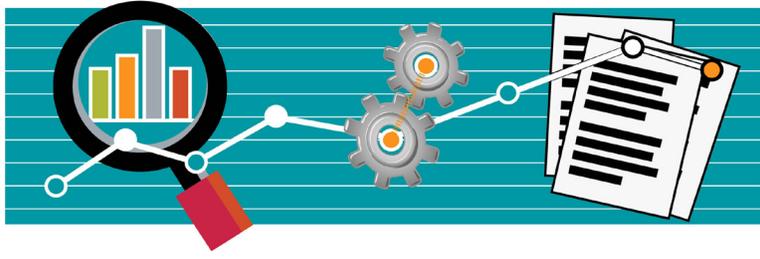# Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

March 2020

The Art & Science of Data: From Numbers to Narratives Review

On January 15, 2020, the Offices of Assessment/APR and Institutional Analytics hosted a very successful day-long event called **The Art & Science of Data** to empower faculty and staff with training and information on how to leverage institutional data resources to understand their own units and tell their stories more effectively. The schedule included presentations from various data/reporting units from across campus who presented to the UNM community on reading and interpreting dashboards, using MyReports to gather disaggregated data, using the NCES IPEDS Data Center, managing departmental assessment data, and best practices in survey research. Presentation materials from each session can be found here. The Office of Institutional Analytics has visualized responses to the event survey here.

To summarize, **we found that 100% of survey respondents agreed that this event should be held on an annual basis** and participants on average felt they had **an increased awareness of data resources available at UNM**.

As a spin off to the full day-long event, Data Power Hours will be hosted once a month and locations will rotate around campus. These sessions will be much shorter (about an hour) than our full day event and will be much more focused on one topic. Our first session will be on Grant Proposals and Reporting Related Data. It will be held in the UNM Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building (Bldg. #55), Room 110 on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 10:00 am. If you are interested in attending, please register here by Wednesday, March 18th.

Wanted: Graduate Students

The UNM Office of Assessment & APR is looking to hire highly qualified graduate students to provide assistance with rubric analysis of student work from the UNM general education courses using pre-existing rubrics.

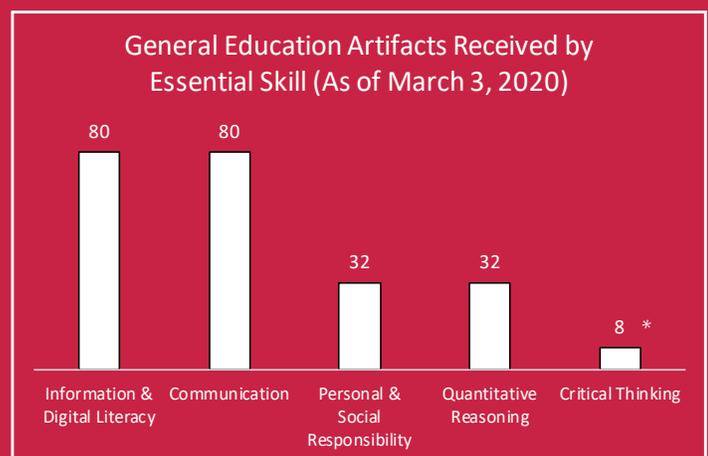Position duties and responsibilities include:

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

Requirements for consideration include:

- Available in person June 3rd- July 2nd, 2020
- Attend weekly office team meetings
- 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

OA/APR News

- The 2020 New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention (NMHEAR) Conference was held on February 25 and 26 in Albuquerque. The Office of Assessment & APR (OA/APR), along with representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences and Academic Communities, co-presented on several topics, including the upcoming General Education Program Review, Graduate Level Assessment, and the redesign of the Administrative/Co-curricular Assessment process at UNM.
- The OA/APR has released a new Word version of the academic assessment template. It is located here.
- OA/APR's feedback cycle on submitted assessment plans and reports is starting soon. The OA/APR will provide detailed feedback on a sample of submissions by May 1.
- In coordination with a refocus on administrative/co-curricular assessment, the OA/APR has begun the process of developing their own assessment plan.
- The new Gen Ed assessment submission process has begun. As of March 3, the OA/APR has received over 50 Gen Ed Submissions, for a total of 232 student artifacts. These submissions have come in from College of Arts and Sciences, Honors College, Valencia, Los Alamos, and Gallup. Kudos to those who have submitted! If you have not yet submitted, no worries! Just a reminder that those will be due by **May 15**. We will be sending reminders on April 15 and May 1. Here's a quick glance at which essential skills are most popular so far:

General Education Artifacts Received by Essential Skill (As of March 3, 2020)

Essential Skill	Artifacts
Information & Digital Literacy	80
Communication	80
Personal & Social Responsibility	32
Quantitative Reasoning	32
Critical Thinking	8 *

* not due this year

Preferred Qualifications are:

- Educational data, assessment or rubric use/analysis experience

Required application materials include:

- Current vita/resume
- One professional/academic reference
- Cover letter describing how your experience or interest best aligns with the requirements of this position.

If you are, or know of someone who is qualified and is interested in the position, please contact:

Dr. Julie Sanchez
Director of Assessment & APR
Phone: (505) 277-4130
Email: jreed@unm.edu

Quote:

I think about assessment in terms of performance and control. Assessment practices produce objective performance information, just like the gauges and dials in any given complex machinery in modern industrial use. These dials tell observers what the machine is doing and how any subsystems are doing to keep things moving along. When the gauges indicate one or more values failing to meet normal operating parameters, there are also control measures (valves, switches, etc.) that can be used to change inputs or demands on the system to bring it back into normal parameters.
In education, performance is measured by assessment practices. Control is executed by the instructional systems design (ISD) practices used by the faculty member / program / institution. The difference between a machine and education is that the machine is a closed system and input changes can be readily seen in the outputs. In education, the system is open (new students each course / class / year) but the impact can still be seen if our assessment instruments (rubrics, etc.) are devised in such a way as to provide some precision on what we are expecting for student performance.

Tony "Rooster" Klucking, Ph.D., AD-25
Director, Program Assessment
Education Support Squadron
Air University

Academic Program Review (APR) News:

General Education Program Review

To best meet HLC requirements of assessing student learning and NMHED general education initiatives, the OA/APR has proactively designed a program review process for UNM's General Education programming. This will be a separate process from UNM's established Academic Program Review, and will focus on General Education university-wide. The current design of this General Education Program Review (GEPR) process was shared at the NMHEAR conference this past February, where the office engaged in discussion with other institutions that are beginning to design their own GEPR frameworks.

UNM's process will provide a holistic, encompassing view of general education programming at a Flagship, Research 1, and Hispanic-Serving Institution, and will include information/discussion through a variety of lenses: curriculum, assessment, student success & support services, and strategic planning, to name a few. As the process is still under construction, the OA/APR office will be sure to provide updates!

Newsletter Submissions:
We are accepting ideas and submissions for our next issues. Please email us at assess@unm.edu before April 15, 2020.

Contact Information:
assess@unm.edu   assessment.unm.edu
apr@unm.edu   apr.unm.edu

Assessment Dates to Remember:

UNM Gen Ed Assessment Submission Deadline	May 15
UNM Administrative /Co-curricular Submission Deadline	May 31

Conference Dates to Remember:

HLC Conference	April 17-21, Chicago IL

Upcoming OA/APR Spring Workshops (all begin at 10am @DSH 220)

UNM Data Pathways and Resources	March 27
Strategic Planning	May 15

Note-Worthy Links

The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) is pleased to announce the release of the 42nd occasional paper, reflecting on the last three years of conversations on equity and assessment and looking to the decade ahead.

Proposals for the 2020 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, IA are being accepted through the priority deadline of March 20, 2020. To submit a proposal, click this link.

Ending up with fractional decimal scores in your rubric review scores? Click here for an interesting discussion on rounding and its implications.

The Learning Improvement Community is excited to announce that they have created a website dedicated to sharing compelling learning improvement stories in higher ed stemming from the assessment process.

Assessment 101 is a 5-day interactive workshop from James Madison University that allows participants to practice the components of the assessment cycle with a special emphasis on learning improvement. The fee is $1500 for the week-long session.

Charla's Data Corner

Did you know you can access data from peer institutions and you don't even need a special account?

During our February Provost Committee on Assessment (PCA) meeting, Dr. Eva Rodriguez Gonzales gave a demonstration on how to use the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to locate data from peer institutions. You can use IPEDS data to compare your unit graduation rates, enrollment rates, etc. to your peers by several different variables. Additionally, you can use the IPEDS website to look up national data trends for enrollment, graduation, and more! Our peer institutions are defined here by the Office of Institutional Analytics and you can follow this tutorial (developed by the University of Portland) to get started.