Academic Unit Assessment Feedback Cycle

The OA/APR provides assessment feedback to all colleges, schools and branches. The office annually reviews SLOs, assessment measures, results use, and communication of results to help "close the loop." Themes and patterns emerge regarding academic unit assessment and some are preliminarily stated here from the AY 19-20 assessment cycle. Deeper analysis will be provided in the upcoming AY 19-20 State of Assessment institutional report.

Assessment approach: Collaborative efforts are being used for assessment purposes. Analysis teams, faculty, Chairs, and Assessment Coordinators/Directors are valuing a team approach to gauge program effectiveness and student learning.

SLOs: While many student learning outcomes are clear and specific, some are written as a student checklist of actions rather than the attainment of knowledge or skills.

Assessment measures: UNM is indicating a wide variety of assessment tools being utilized in the measurement student behaviors such as focus groups, observations, field work, student reflections, exams/quizzes, papers and rubric use. Also, course grades are regularly being used as a measurement tool. Grades are a common assessment mistake since an overall grade does not measure a specific learning behavior and is more of an overarching indication of achievement.

Results Use: Strong results use are being reported. From fostering better student lab skills to changing curriculum to meet student needs to incorporating results into graduate level education, UNM is illustrating closing the assessment loop frequently.

Communication of Results: Assessment results are being discussed between and among faculty, leadership, and annual events such as faculty retreats. The outcomes of these discussions are reinforced in written communication channels (e.g., email and website updates) as well.

Graduate level assessment: Student learning at the Masters and Ph.D. levels are commonly assessed with summative measures such as written and oral defenses. However, some are beginning to use qualifying exams or project proposals to address formative assessment.

Final Call for General Education Student Artifact Submissions!

We will be accepting submissions through this form until **5pm on May 15th**. Our review team is anxious to get started with the analysis process, and your on-time submissions ensure we can begin without delay!

APR News

Highlights of the Facilities Criterion of the Academic Program Review (APR) Process

Over time, the APR process has evidenced the ways in which facilities are used. The following are examples of specific facilities information, APR discussions, and trends:

• Off-campus facilities as an advantage for academic programs; for example, the availability of off-campus buildings helping with growing industries

• Re-purposing spaces within departments to better meet immediate needs; for example, using a projection closet for other needs

• Reviewers see a need for more aesthetically-pleasing working areas

• Safety concerns; for example, the theft of equipment. These issues have led to safety concerns among department faculty, staff, and students

• Student-centered spaces reinforcing post-university skills; for example, facilities holding student meetings to help develop strategies, skills and projects for professional development.

• Well-designed research spaces creating an open atmosphere for faculty & student work; for example, facilities showcasing well-designed spaces for students to research, study, work, and collaborate."

• Use of unofficial spaces for department needs; for example, open areas that are designed for students are often utilized for larger departmental events (guest/visiting lecturers, open houses, recruitment events).

Academic Unit Assessment Submission Totals

Undergraduate Submissions
Main Campus

Program Degrees	101	
Submitted	76	
Percentage	75.2%	Up 7.9% from last year

Branch Campuses*

Program Degrees	38	
Submitted	27	
Percentage	71.1%	Up 22.2% from last year

Combined (Main & Branches)

Program Degrees	139	
Submitted	103	
Percentage	74.1%	Up 12.8% from last year

Graduate Submissions

Program Degrees	147	
Submitted	91	
Percentage	61.9%	Up 2.6% from last year

Grand Totals

Program Degrees	286	
Submitted	194	
Percentage	67.8%	Up 7.4% from last year

* Totals do not include the Los Alamos branch campus

Summer 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 (online via Zoom at 9:00am)

Please join us for our LAST WORKSHOPS of the Spring Semester, offered in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Analytics (OIA):

Surveys A-Z	May 19

In this session, presenters will cover the nuts & bolts to survey design: where to start, drafting questions, and beginning the analysis of the results.

Please use this registration link for session details and to sign up for any session described above.

Note-Worthy Links

Hosted by IUPUI, the **Assessment Institute in Indianapolis** is the oldest and largest U.S. higher education event focused on assessment and improvement. This year, they will feature more than 300 unique educational sessions and are offering complimentary registration to their virtual engagement held October 24-27, 2021

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.

Research & Practice in Assessment recently published The Next Ten Years: The Future of Assessment Practice?
This article considers how we as assessment professionals might **re-imagine our established practices**, and addresses the questions "If you are given unrestricted power to **change assessment practice for the better over the next 10 years**, what does assessment look like? What changes would you make over the next 10 years and why are those changes needed?"

Assessment and improvement videos are now available:
Assessment Competency:
This video is a collaborative effort focusing on **competence in assessment**. Hosted by Joe Levy (SAAL) along with Monica Stitt-Bergh, Julie Morrison, Lesley D'Souza, and Caroline Prendergast.

"Understand" is a Weasel Word:
This video speaks to the dastardly **verb that plagues many SLOs**.

Is My Survey Good?:
This video gets at a **fundamental question often overlooked** when evaluating assessment instruments.

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 August 1, 2021.

Have a great summer! We know many of you work through the summer, and we can't wait to see you at our summer drop-in hours and meetings. For those signing off until the fall, we look forward to catching up with you then!