

Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

Join us in Welcoming Alyssa, our new Assessment Specialist!!

Hello! My name is Alyssa and I'm the new University Assessment Specialist. I just moved to New Mexico in May after spending almost a decade in the Midwest, though I grew up in Las Vegas (NV). I have an MA in Higher Education and Student Affairs and BAs in Psychology and Sociology. Most of my experience is in higher education assessment, especially with co-curricular units. I'm looking forward to working with everyone!

Teaching Assistants!

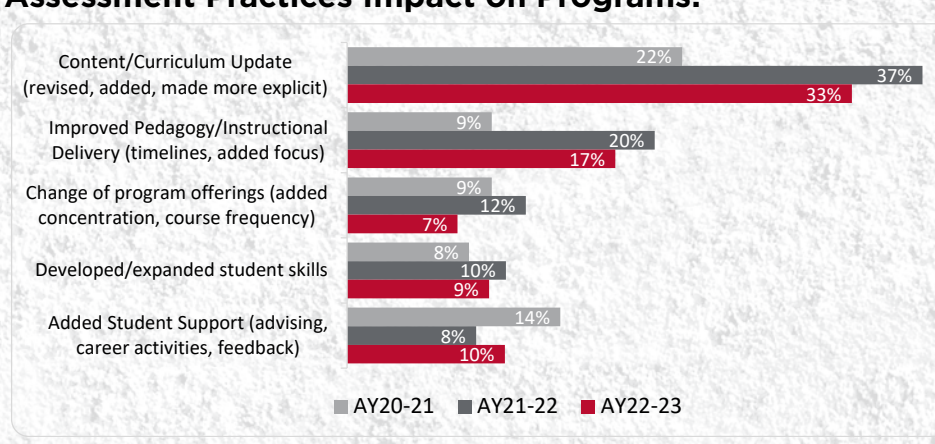
We know being a Teaching Assistant (TA) can feel like a massive undertaking. Is this your first time? Or maybe you are teaching a new course? Perhaps you just want to make sure you have all the resources to support you at hand, no need to feel lost - OAAPR created an infographic specifically for you. This infographic highlights general education (GE) assessment - the TA's role in GE assessment, plus the five GE essential skills and UNM's GE assessment cycle (this year was Critical Thinking). We've also included some great resources for teaching, including examples of assignment prompts from multiple disciplines and where to go for professional development workshops. Not a TA? Share with one today!

[Click here to check out our infographic](#)

THANK YOU ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR YOUR AY 22-23 ASSESSMENT WORK

- Assessment participation **increased by 14%** this year
- Undergraduate degrees had an overall participation of 72%, **up 22%** from last year
- Graduate degrees had a rate of 58%, **up 4%** from last year
- Programs are **seeking ways to track alumni data and outcomes**
- **Advisors are supporting graduate level assessment.** The OAAPR plans to further explore more information regarding advising roles within assessment.
- One of the most **frequent assessment challenges** identified by units involved faculty and administrative **turnover** associated with gaps in the assessment process.
- Many units observed a continuing trend over time of building a strong culture of assessment

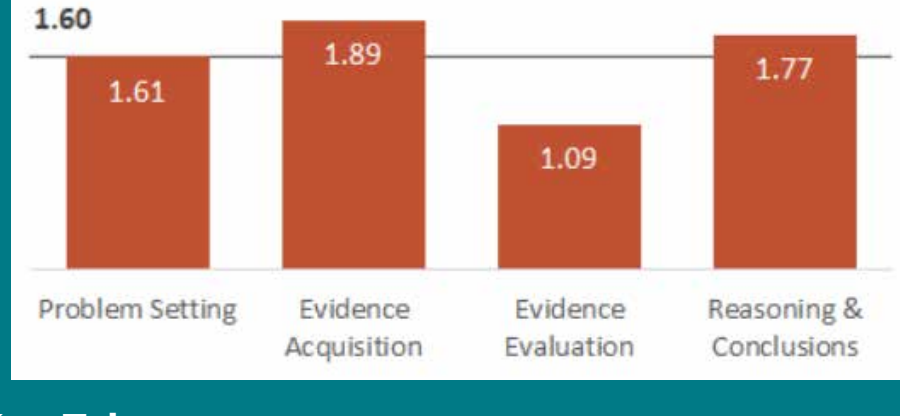
Assessment Practices Impact on Programs:



To see the full set of results, please see our [annual report](#).

23-24 GE Essential Skills Rating

UNM is in its second year of the second General Education (GE) assessment cycle. Last year was focused on Critical Thinking. We received 894 submissions from 871 students, with representation from 11 colleges, schools, and branches. General Education assessment is particularly critical for branch campuses, which predominantly provide GE courses to their students.



Key Takeaways:

- Critical Thinking ratings are down across UNM this year (1.60), compared to the last Critical Thinking cycle (1.99) in 2020.
- Evidence evaluation rated lowest of all dimensions both years. Raters reported that artifacts with evidence of this dimension this year had the highest unalignment.
- Assignments are less aligned this cycle, which negatively impacts results.
- COVID may have decreased Critical Thinking student performance at the [national level](#).

AY 24-25 is focused on **Quantitative Reasoning, Communication, Information & Digital Literacy, and Personal & Social Responsibility.**

OAAPR Zoom Workshops Fall 2024

Developing Rubrics
Friday, September 13 10-11am

Rubrics can be very useful in measuring assessment outcomes. This session focuses on best practices in rubric design, creation, and implementation. Bring your assessment outcomes to work off of.

Analyzing Rubrics
Friday, September 27 10-11am

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

Annual GE Workshop: Results and Future Actions
Friday, October 25 10-11am

Join us for General Education AY23-24 assessment results and emerging trends! This workshop will share updates, reflections, and next steps for the AY24-25 GE cycle.

[Find registration information on the OAAPR website.](#)

Drop-In Hours Ending!

Due to a lack of usage, we are discontinuing our Friday Zoom drop-in hours. You can continue to schedule consultations by emailing us individually or at one of our two office email addresses.

Julie Sanchez
jreed@unm.edu
Director, Assessment & APR

Assessment
assess@unm.edu
Alyssa Yao
ayao@unm.edu

Academic Program Reviews
apr@unm.edu
Amanda DiMercurio
adimercurio@unm.edu

Elizabeth Kerl
ekkerl@unm.edu
Data Support

Visit our [website](#) for more.

23-24 Academic Program Review Highlights

The following themes arose from 7 APRs conducted over AY23-24. Full APR review team's reports can be found by following the links at the end of this year's Annual APR Institutional Report or by following the links for a specific program provided under the APR Unit's Record Tab.

The APR process includes a selected review team made up of experts from other institutions and within UNM. This year 22 individuals served as reviewers conducting a single review. The reviewers are provided with a comprehensive self-study report followed by site-visit meetings with various program stakeholders.

Programs focus on Flexibility, Streamlining, Accessibility and DEI

Review teams reported that many programs demonstrate innovative approaches to meeting student needs around educational goals, research participation and skill development, and career preparation. Reviewers encourage the continuation of adapting and expanding flexibility and accessibility by focusing support efforts for underrepresented student groups and creating an inclusive learning environment.

Assessment: Mapping, Aligning, and Communication

Reviewers observed programs utilizing assessment data to inform improvements and curriculum development. Reviewers proposed mapping to specific courses and alignment of measurements to SLOs to ensure effective assessment of student outcomes. Students voiced their wishes to increase communication of personalized feedback, clear rubrics, and transparent assessment practices.

Students

Review teams noted that faculty are displaying high levels of performance. They acknowledge and caution the needs of balancing workloads, administrative duties, research, services, and direct student contact and mentorships. Many teams suggested new faculty lines to reduce burdens across units. Reviewers identified a need for faculty development, mentoring and retention strategies to support all ranks. Reviewer also suggested adding and increasing financial and administrative support for grant management to alleviate faculty fulfilling these roles.

Faculty

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Please look out for the full AY23-24 APR Report on the [APR website](#).

Data Den

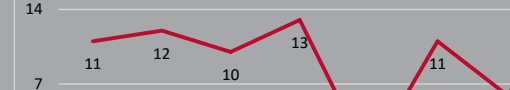
by Elizabeth Kerl

The smell of roasting chiles and the sight of balloons fills the air, and my head fills with questions about Balloon Fiesta. I began to wonder about trends over time and wanted to know if there was an impact from COVID outside 2020. At first, I struggled to find data. Then I stumbled on the search for 'Balloon Fiesta Numbers' and got these amazing [fact sheets](#).

Looking at the last seven years, I was surprised how consistent the numbers were. Turns out **balloon** registrants are capped at a value that fluctuates from 600 - 1,000 depending on the year. So why are the numbers not identical to the limit each year? I still don't have an answer. But to answer my question, the COVID restrictions in 2021 seem to have only minimally impacted attendance or balloons.

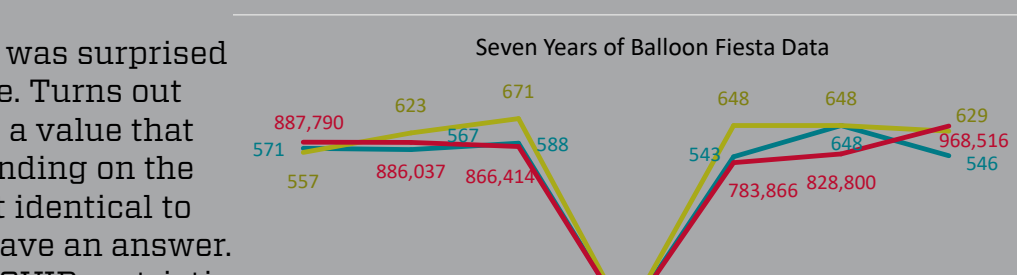
There are consistently more **pilots** than **balloons**, apart from 2017, and often more than the 550 expected on the pilot FAQ. Also interesting was the number of **spectators** fluctuates with number of **balloons** until 2022. And I don't know about you, but as low as that yellow line may seem, I never realized just how many balloons were **special shapes**, with around a hundred every year.

Total Balloon Fiesta Events Occurring Each Year



The Balloon Fiesta began in 1972 when 13 balloons launched from the Coronado Mall parking lot. Today over 800,000 visitors come to watch around 600 balloons take off from the 350-acre Balloon Fiesta Park.

fly. I decided that it also greatly impacts if balloons can safely fly. Weather can also greatly impacts if balloons can safely fly. I decided to look at the ratio of events occurring to those planned. It turns out every year there are exactly 14 events planned. However, the number of actual events that occur varies widely based on weather. You can see the in 2022, less than half the events were able to take place.



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Contact info:
ekkerl@unm.edu

Contact & Website Information:

assess@unm.edu assessment.unm.edu

apr@unm.edu apr.unm.edu

