

Assessment & APR Quarterly

A publication from the UNM
Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review
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AY 24/25 APR Annual Report is Available

Dear UNM Faculty and Staff,

The SOAPR for 2024-2025 APRs is now available on the [APR website](#). We would personally like to thank all participating individuals for your dedicated efforts in making each APR an insightful and invaluable process.

Calling All Experienced APR Reviewers!

Have you served as a reviewer for an Academic Program Review (APR) at another institution or at UNM? We'd love to hear from you! Your insights on what worked well, what was challenging, and what UNM might consider replicating are invaluable.

Even if you've completed our UNM APR Reviewer Survey, please don't hesitate to expand on your experience! Share your thoughts via **email** or schedule a one-on-one conversation—phone, virtual, or in person.

Let's collaborate to strengthen our process. I look forward to connecting!

Amanda DiMercurio
APR Manager



Schedule an appointment

Questions about incorporating assessment into your program, course, or your upcoming APR? Come talk to us!

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Visit our [website](#) for more.

General Education Essential Skill Days Resources

In January 2026, the OAAPR hosted a series of Essential Skill workshops aimed at helping instructors connect the NMHED skill definitions with their own coursework in GE courses. With the help of faculty experts, each session spent an hour working through examples of each rubric dimension across various areas. The slides from those workshops are listed below. Videos for CT, QR, and PSR are also available upon request. Email assess@unm.edu.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)**
- **Communication (COM)**
- **Personal & Social Responsibility (PSR)**
- **Information & Digital Literacy (IDL)**
- **Quantitative Reasoning (QR)**

Tips for Integrating Essential Skills into Assignments

- **Build assignments based on the NMHED rubric dimensions.** Each skill has multiple dimensions under it, allowing for flexibility in which only two dimensions are selected.
- **Include essential skills and their definitions in the assignment description.** Students benefit from having an understanding of the skillset being gained and appreciate knowing what they are expected to demonstrate.
- **Communicate to students that GE assessment is taking place.** Students can be motivated to do better on assignments (and demonstrate the true extent of their essential skill attainment) when they know that it will represent UNM as a whole.
- **Consider ways to include evidence of the learning process for the essential skill.** These can include reflective components, preparatory work, or drafts of a final project. Some assignments, such as quantitative answers, multiple-choice quizzes, and final art products do not show direct evidence of the essential skill.

National Conferences

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
2026 Annual Conference

March 21-24 (Chicago)



NMHEAR: New Mexico Higher Education
Assessment & Retention Conference

March 5-6 (ABQ)



2026 NASPA (National Association
of Student Personnel Administrators)
Conference on Student Success in
Higher Education

June 10-13 (Austin)



Data Den

by Elizabeth Kerl

When we talk about General Education Essential Skills being assessed for the NMHED, sometimes the discussion sounds like checking a box. I want to share an additional angle beyond staying compliant with the state. When we teach our students these essential skills, we are building the future. Let me get into the numbers!

UNM recently accessed publicly available data for many of our alumni. A total of 122,247 graduates had data available. This gives us a great picture of where they are and what they are doing after departing from UNM. These students are doing many things, all using the skills they acquired at UNM. Of these, one group caught my interest.

11% of all these graduates went into education. UNM alumni are teaching at the college level across all 50 states plus DC and Puerto Rico, in 455 colleges & universities. Just locally, 1500 teach in our K-12 public schools, educating our next generation of Lobos. And there are more teaching at schools across the state in Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces. When our students learn essential transferable life skills, we prepare them and their students for the future.

This is a reminder of the meaningfulness and the impact you are making with your GE assessment efforts. If you teach GE, it is important to be familiar with the specific NMHED essential skills for your **content area**. Students will benefit from acquiring these NMHED transferable skills, not only in their current UNM education, but in their future careers. And when these careers are educational, these skills then benefit our future Lobos. If you need help incorporating these skills in your area, we have resources on our website and run regular **workshops**. We would also be happy to meet with you!

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OFFICE OF
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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ACADEMIC Assessment

Did you hear? No Reports!?!?



**That's like 2 years
of no reporting!**

The UNM Office of Assessment & APR are not requiring **annual report** submissions for academic programs at all Colleges & Schools. Instead, all degree programs are expected to submit a new **5-year plan** and **reflection** by Fall 2026. This 5 year plan will span across AY 27/28- 31/32. During AY 27/28 programs will collect student assessment materials in preparation for

the **first report due in Fall 2028**. The Academic Affairs division fully endorses the new assessment process and encourages programs to explore upcoming assessment workshops and other professional development opportunities to strengthen strategies to improve student success, examine and simplify the assessment process, or use this time for new curriculum developments. [Click here for more information.](#)



RECHARGE & RESET

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