

Assessment & APR Quarterly

A publication from the UNM

Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review

April 2026



Artifact Submission Deadline **MAY 15th** General Education

Please **submit** artifacts for one of the following essential Skills: Quantitative Reasoning, Information & Digital Literacy, Personal & Social Responsibility, or Communication.

Unsure if your course falls under GE? Visit gened.unm.edu to learn more about NM State GE.

Praiseworthy Assessment

The OAAPR is applauding UNM academic programs for their excellent assessment work!

A special acknowledgement to:

- **ASM's MS Project Management** for comprehensive assessment with **scaffolded SLOs**, strong data analysis **identifying specific strategies** for student support, and closing the loop with **connecting assessment and pedagogical enhancement**.
- **A&S's Physics Bachelor of Science** for a well-rounded data collection cycle that **represents student performance at different levels** of coursework and when students are completing the degree, a targeted focus on majors and pre-majors who are considered at-risk in the program, and the **implementation of new strategies** to support student learning.
- **A&S's Economics Bachelor of Arts** for **well-defined SLOs** covering essential skills and a mix of direct and indirect measures. The report provides a thorough analysis, identifies improvements, and **outlines changes**, such as strengthening graphical analysis and proposing a STEM-certified BS in Economics. The program demonstrates a mature assessment process, using findings to inform improvements and **showing commitment to continuous growth**.
- **A&S's English Bachelor of Arts** for strong and meaningful analysis, **digging deep into their subdisciplines** and **looking beyond the benchmarks** for the most fitting student success metrics and indicators.
- **Valencia's Mathematics** for well-defined SLOs, direct and **multiple measures**, and clear benchmarks. The report provides a detailed and transparent analysis of the results, identifying **specific areas of student difficulty** and potential **contributing factors**, with plans for improving support in these areas.
- **COEHS's PhD Exercise Science** for its well-structured assessment practices that include **clear and distinct student behaviors**, **appropriate benchmarking**, and active use of assessment results to inform programmatic enhancements.
- **SOE's PhD Mechanical Engineering** for **capturing both formative and summative data** with the use of multiple works, giving attention to a **broad view of student learning**.
- **CFA's M.F.A. in Dance** for a well-structured assessment plan with SLOs that clearly **articulate what students should demonstrate at various stages**. The program sets high, clear benchmarks. Although sample size is small, reporting is thorough and **accurately reflects the student's progression** through the program milestones.

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.

Curriculum Mapping Institute

The Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review (OAAPR), in collaboration with Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), invites faculty and academic leaders to participate in a hands-on, two-day Curriculum Mapping Institute focused on a single degree program. This half-day workshop series offers a guided, practical approach to designing a curriculum map that aligns learning outcomes, course sequencing, and program goals with institutional priorities and accreditation standards.

Participants will work directly with OAAPR experts to create a comprehensive curriculum map that supports strategic planning, simplifies assessment, and enhances program coherence. Whether preparing for an APR, refining advising tools, or identifying gaps and strengths in your curriculum, this institute provides the tools and templates to turn data into actionable insights. Faculty will leave with a completed map, ready to inform future curriculum development and departmental planning.

Sign up today to represent your program and help shape the future of academic excellence at UNM.

[Spring Signups](#)

[Fall Signups](#)

Missed the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 2026 Conference?

Here's a recap that shares 2026 Higher Education Trends:

Higher education is experiencing rapid transformation, shaped by political influence, financial pressures, and evolving learner expectations. The HLC Trends 2026 report highlights several key developments that institutions should be preparing for.

- **Governance and Oversight:** Private and public institutions are facing increased scrutiny from state and federal governments, reshaping institutional autonomy and decision-making.
- **Student Success & Return on Investment:** Higher focus on student outcomes and program value are becoming central to public trust and regulatory expectations.
- **Expanding Credentials:** Students increasingly seek flexible, stackable, and workforce-aligned credentials.
- **Financial Realities:** National demographic shifts causing enrollment decline, funding uncertainty, and rising operational costs are driving mergers, consolidations, and new business models.
- **AI and Teaching Innovation:** Artificial intelligence is reshaping admissions, advising, teaching, and accreditation, requiring strong governance and AI literacy across campuses.
- **People and Well-being:** Burnout, mental health concerns, and talent turnover continue to challenge students, faculty, staff, and leadership alike.

Together, these trends signal a pivotal moment—one that calls for agility, collaboration, and mission-focused leadership across higher education. Explore all twelve trends and their implications for institutions by reading the full [HLC Trends 2026 report](#).

Join our Upcoming Fall 2026 Workshops via Zoom

Workshops to Support your Academic Assessment

How to Restart your AY27 Assessment Planning

Friday, August 28th @ 10am

Join us to walk through the new and improved assessment template, discuss strategies to maximize your student monitoring, and bring your questions about efficient and impactful assessment structures.

Assessment Meaningful Analysis

Friday, September 11th @ 10am

UNM units report challenges with assessment analysis. This workshop is developed to guide participants through the analysis process from start to finish, with a focus on enhancing interpretation and contextualization of processes.

Curriculum Mapping Institute

Wednesday, September 30th & Friday, October 2nd @ 9am

This series is designed to support degree programs in developing a curriculum map to think through curricular flow/bottlenecks and revisions, student learning outcomes, undergraduate courses and degree paths, graduate programming, as well as GE coursework. You will be supported by a team while developing your map of choice and will be provided with analysis tools and next steps to continue your mapping for future curriculum work, visualization, and communication of your map findings.

Interactive Workshops for General Education Instruction

Aligning Critical Thinking Assignments for the NMHED

Friday, September 18th @ 10am

Join the OAAPR in a workshop focusing on the NMHED GE Critical Thinking essential skill. UNM's GE assessment cycle is solely measuring Critical Thinking this year and is providing this support for our GE instructors to learn ways to embed this skill into courses and polish assignments to align with the Critical Thinking skill. We will share relevant examples, NMHED rubric dimension applications, and ways for students to evidence their skill growth.

Sign Up for all workshops in one place or see our [Events](#) page.

Academic Assessment

AY 25/26

RECHARGE

NEW Assessment plans on the horizon

