



# Assessment & APR Quarterly

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

September 2020



The Institutional State of Assessment Report is a comprehensive analysis of UNM college/school/branch assessment narrative reports, maturity rubrics and academic unit reports. This report documents UNM's assessment story for AY 2018-2019 from the perspective of academic units and their assessment experts. Additionally, the OA/APR also reports on the academic program review activities and findings of the Academic Program Review (APR) process during AY2019-2020. Please read the results of both reports below:

## State of Assessment Annual Report

While analyzing the assessment narratives and rubrics, strengths and weaknesses emerged:

The main **strengths** identified were:

- Progress in assessment processes
- Development of stronger learning outcomes
- Creation of better assessment measures
- Evidence of increased assessment communication
- Increased focus on closing the loop

**Weaknesses** identified included:

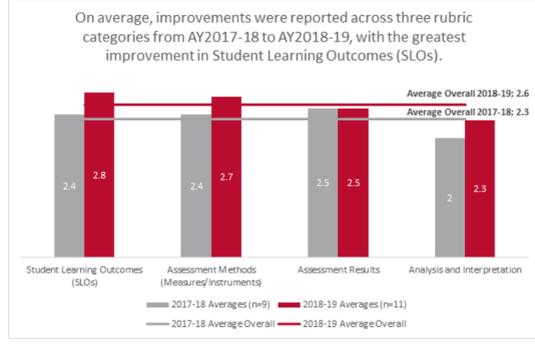
- Faculty buy-in
- Closing the loop/using the results
- Graduate assessment overall was generally weaker than undergraduate assessment

Other **major elements** that were identified included the need to address transitions in assessment staff and faculty with additional training and mentorship programs, and an improvement in data collection, organization, and backup processes.

Also heavily evident in the results was the **role that programs are taking** to improve their assessment processes, including developing their own workshops and mentorships to assist with assessment topics, leading to more meaningful assessment. Programs noted that they are using assessment processes to document progress, describe program uniqueness, and clarifying programmatic direction.

Submitted assessment documents also revealed that programs are more **consistently using the OA assessment plan and report templates**; that programs are either limiting or cycling their SLOs so that they can concentrate on a few at a time; and that the desire to close the loop is being used to inform their curriculum, instruction, or overall student learning.

This year marked the **second year of using the updated Maturity Rubric and Narrative Template** as it was updated in Fall 2018. The rubric uses a rating scale from No Evidence (0) to Exemplary Evidence (3).



On average, **maturity rubric scores from College/School/Branch representatives improved across all dimensions** from AY2017-18 to AY2018-19 by 0.3 points; improving from an overall average rating of 2.3 to an overall average rating of 2.6. As evidenced by the figure below, the most notable improvement can be seen in the Student Learning Outcomes dimension, though similar improvements were also noted in the Assessment Methods and Analysis and Interpretation dimensions. The maturity rating average in the Assessment Results dimension remained the same between the two academic years.

## General Education Assessment

This academic year, UNM will **ONLY** be assessing the **Critical Thinking** essential skill. Please review the Critical Thinking rubric and dimensions before collecting and submitting your artifacts. The rubric is located [here](#).

Upload artifacts (Excel, Word, PDF, PowerPoint, etc.) for Critical Thinking assessment to the GE submission form located [here](#).

If you have a video recording, you will need to upload to YouTube/equivalent and share the link with us in the submission form. Please remember you will need to provide an assignment description and Banner ID numbers for each artifact.

## Thank You!

The OA/APR wants to acknowledge the six UNM graduate students who rated over 750 general education student artifacts for the inaugural year of the NMHED GE assessment mandate. Graduate students representing various educational backgrounds, teaching experience and extensive knowledge in Communication, Quantitative Reasoning, Personal & Social Responsibility and Information & Digital Literacy were instrumental in the analysis of UNM's GE data. Thank you for all of your amazing work and insights on the general education assessment process!

A very important thank you to Arabic Professor Emma Trentman for her rubric work on the GE Arabic student artifacts. It is crucial to understand the role of Second Languages in UNM's general education programming and Emma was able to contribute to this understanding with her knowledge and language capabilities.

## Introductions

Welcome New Assessment Champions: College of Arts & Sciences Assessment Co-directors Aurora Pun and Dawn Nordquist and Gallup branch CARC Chair Kelly Schukar.

## The Art & Science of Data 2021

Save the Date!

This year, the Office of Assessment & APR and the Office of Institutional Analytics will offer the Second Annual Art & Science of Data event on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. This day-long, virtual event seeks to empower faculty and staff with information and information on how to leverage institutional data resources to understand their own units and tell their stories more effectively. Please save the date and look out for more information, which will be posted here as it becomes available.

## Administrative / Co-Curricular Program Outreach

Administrative/Co-Curricular (A/CC) assessment has become a growing focus for UNM's accreditor, The Higher Learning Commission (HLC). In response, we have begun to increase our A/CC outreach program. In September and October, our office will be sending out emails to A/CC units throughout the University to assist them with developing an assessment program and/or provide support to existing programs. We will provide support, no matter what stage you are in!

## Video Guidance for Completing Academic Assessment Forms!

In response to several inquiries, we developed two videos that guide the viewer step-by-step through the academic merged assessment plan and report template. The first video focuses on the plan portion of the merged template, offering guidance, advice, and examples for each section.

The second video reviews the report section, again providing guidance and examples on how to complete the form. Both videos are less than 15 minutes. The videos are located on our website, under UNM Assessment Templates, Academic Templates header. Click [here](#) for the direct link.

## APR Action Plans Reminder

Annual APR Action Plan updates are due to the office on December 15th, 2020. Internal college/school deadlines may be earlier. Please feel free to email [apr@unm.edu](mailto:apr@unm.edu) if you cannot locate your APR Action Plan or its most recent annual update!

## Newsletter Submissions:

We are accepting ideas and submissions for our next issues. Please email us at [assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu) before November 15, 2020.

## Contact Information:

[assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu) [assessment.unm.edu](http://assessment.unm.edu)  
[apr@unm.edu](mailto:apr@unm.edu) [apr.unm.edu](http://apr.unm.edu)

## State of Academic Program Review (APR) Annual Report

As part of institutional reporting, OA/APR constructs a "State of APR" each academic year. This report discusses the main endeavors of the office, including an overview of conducted APRs, and discusses any trends noticed across multiple program reviews. The discussion below summarizes this report.

Over AY19/20, **OA/APR fully transitioned to the APR 8th Edition Manual**, which put a greater emphasis on student demographics and faculty service inclusion in the APR self-study. The office presented the current state of the General Education Program Review (GEPR) processes at NMHED 2020, and the office also constructed a **Branch Campus "peer reviewer" system** for their APRs. Pilot tests of this branch system are currently on-hold due to COVID-19. Following the pandemic's eruption in Spring 2020, APR processes also shifted to an **"e-visit" modality**, due to the impact on reviewer travel and in-person meetings. This modality will be used for Fall 2020 APRs.

Across AY19/20 APRs, reviewers provided feedback to programs, and trends emerged from this feedback. Reviewers were quick to note **several strengths**, especially on the topics of faculty research/scholarship, the interdisciplinary connections across disciplines, and the high-levels of satisfaction students/alumni had with their degree program. They also noted that the support systems units had for First Generation students were excellent. Reviewers did mention that **departmental spread and post-degree tracking should be addressed**.

For the office's internal assessment, reviewers complete a **feedback survey**, asking how prepared they felt and what can be done to best-support future review teams. **Feedback this year was very positive**, where all reviewers stated that they felt well-prepared for the roles and responsibilities, even for reviewers that had a quick transition to the e-visit modality. Feedback on the e-visit modality will be incorporated into the upcoming Fall APRs.

## OA/APR News

### Upcoming APRs - Fall 2020

OA/APR is conducting three APRs this semester. Those programs are:

- Department of Political Science - Sept 28
- Architecture Department - Oct 19
- Department of Music - Oct 27

## Note-Worthy Links

**The Assessment Institute**, hosted by IUPUI and usually held in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the nation's oldest and largest higher education event of its type, offering more than 200 educational sessions. The 2020 Assessment Institute will be held virtually, October 25-28, 2020. For 2020, they are offering [complimentary registration](#) to attend the virtual Assessment Institute, including the Pre-Institute workshops on Sunday, October 25, to all members of the higher education community. The conference link is located [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

The **American Evaluation Association** [recently announced](#) the transition of their annual conference to a virtual format. From October 26-31, 2020, you can take part in the online event, which promises to offer several sessions on data collection, data visualization, evaluation, and assessment in higher education. If interested, you can find more information and register [here](#) (when available).

## Assessment Examples Now Available

As part of our review of submitted assessment plans and reports, we provide feedback to the submitting program on all assessment elements. We also collect your feedback on how we can do better supporting you. This year, you noted that you wanted examples of assessment from each category in the academic assessment template. In response, we developed [this](#) web page that provides several examples for:

- **Program Goals** "Students will develop a breadth and depth of expertise appropriate to their career goals in the languages, literatures, and cultures of the Lusio-Hispanic world."

- **Student Learning Outcomes** "Students engage in scholarly or professional communities through attendance at or leadership in workshops, talks, or other events related to their area of study."

- **Assessment Measures** "All course-related assessments use a three-scale rubric as follows: 3 = Exemplary, 2 = Satisfactory, 1 = Unsatisfactory."

- **Benchmarks** "Our goal criteria for success is attainment of an 8.0 or higher average on our rubric rating assessment for all students (Rubric A)."

- **Results Use** "In response to the Academic Program Assessment Maturity Rubric and communications between faculty in the department, the Assessment Faculty Member thoroughly revised the assessment plan."

The examples included here are only a selection; there are several of each included on the website.

## Upcoming OA/APR Fall Workshops (all begin at 10am and are expected to be held online via Zoom)

Please use [this](#) registration link for session details and to sign up for any session described below:

**Assessment Jumpstart** September 8

This is a one hour workshop that provides information about UNM's assessment processes, cycle and critical dates. It's assessment new to assesses or would like a refresher on academic unit or general education assessment, please attend!

**Strategic Planning** September 25

This session will provide an overview of the strategic planning process and how it can be applied to the assessment/evaluation process. The primary parts of a strategic plan (mission, vision, goals, objectives/outcomes, and strategies) and the differences between each will be discussed.

**General Education Assessment** October 30

To be determined...the session will be based on our results, and we are still analyzing!

**APR Data Workshop** November 6

APR Self Study reports require detailed information about unit enrollment, retention, and graduation as well as information about recent graduates and alumni. This workshop was developed (and is required) for those undergoing an APR visit in the upcoming year and will provide resources for collecting/visualizing APR data.

## Academic Assessment Plans Up To Date

We would like to remind you to review your existing assessment plans and their active date range. An assessment plan should not be older than 3-5 years. If your plans are close to that age, you will need to begin creating an update. If you would like assistance with the development of a new plan, contact us at [assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu).

## Charla's Data Corner

Baby Announcement!

As some of you may already know, Charla is out on maternity leave this semester! She recently welcomed her first child, a baby boy named Ezra Kiko Orozco on August 20, weighing in at 7 lbs, 6 ounces, 21-1/4" long. Please direct APR data questions to Samuel Hatch at [apr@unm.edu](mailto:apr@unm.edu) and he will answer or direct your questions to the appropriate person. Thanks to collaboration with the Office of Institutional Analytics, there will still be an APR Self Study Data Workshop this semester on November 6th at 10 am. If other data questions arise, you are welcome to share them with [oi@unm.edu](mailto:oi@unm.edu) and [assess@unm.edu](mailto:assess@unm.edu) and we'll respond or do our best to direct you to an answer! Charla will be back in November and ready to assist thereafter!