



ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW: MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR INSTITUTION, OUR ACADEMIC UNITS, AND OUR ACCREDITOR

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P R E S E N T A T I O N O U T C O M E S

- Learn about a centralized structure for a large-scale academic program review (APR) process
- Identify ways to include data in the APR process
- Discuss Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements of APRs and how we satisfy those with our programming
- Learn how assessment and APRs can go hand-in-hand

P R E S E N T A T I O N O V E R V I E W

- The University of New Mexico
- Overview of UNM APRs
- Office Philosophy
- Connecting Assessment & APR
- Offering APRs Online
- Evolving Process
- Lessons Learned



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

- Flagship, Research 1, & Hispanic-Serving Institution
 - ~22,000 undergraduate + graduate students
 - Main Campus, health-centered North Campus, 4 Branch Campuses
 - Urban campus situated within heart of Albuquerque Metro

APR AT UNM

- Housed within the Office of Assessment & APR (OA/APR)
 - 4 staff; 1 dedicated full-time staff for APR
- 7-year cycle
 - Self-study
 - Visit by external reviewers
 - Response to review and next steps
 - Recurring updates; possibly moving towards mid-cycle check-in
 - Involvement across UNM

MULTI-TIERED INVOLVEMENT

Academic Affairs

Deans

Department
Chairs, Staff, &
Faculty

Office of Vice
President for
Research

Office of Graduate
Studies

Office of
Institutional
Analytics, &
Alumni Relations

Office of
Assessment & APR

Internal/External
Stakeholders

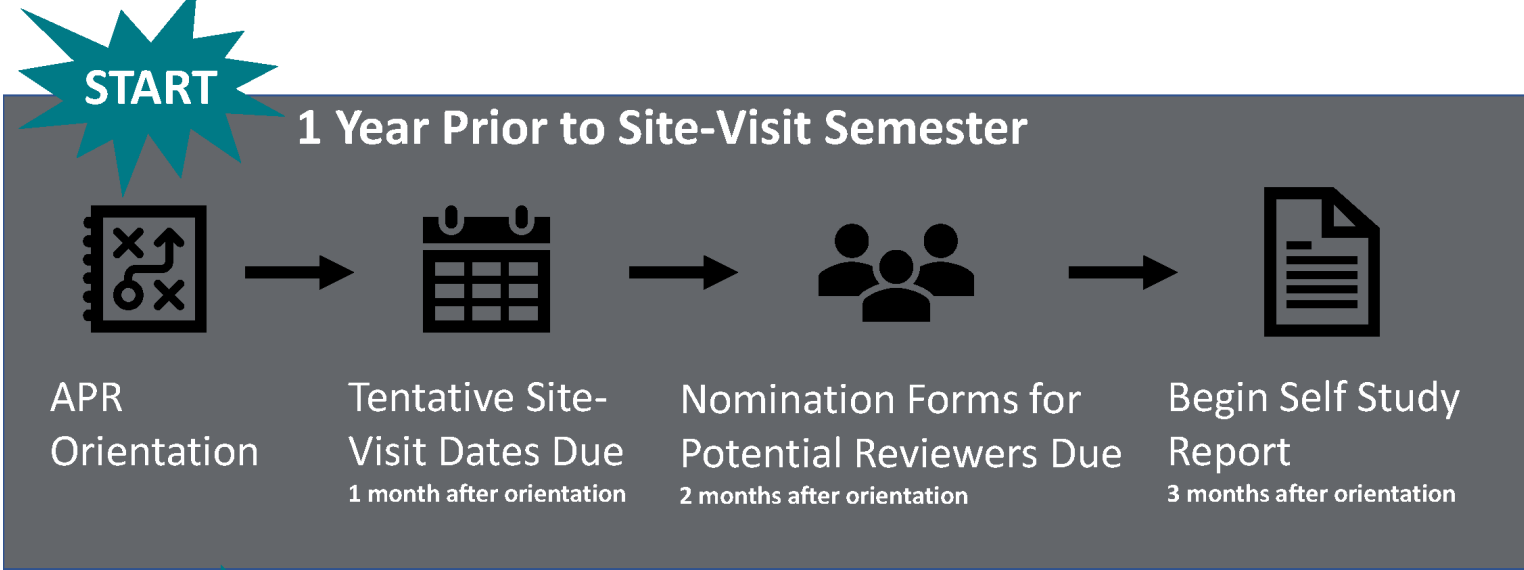
THE HLC

- Required by the Higher Learning Commission
 - Criterion 4.A.1 “The institution maintains a practice of regular program reviews and acts upon the findings.”
- Evidence for meeting HLC Criteria:
 - APR Calendar
 - Repository of APR documents
 - Updates to APR processes

OFFICE PHILOSOPHY: SERVICE & SUPPORT

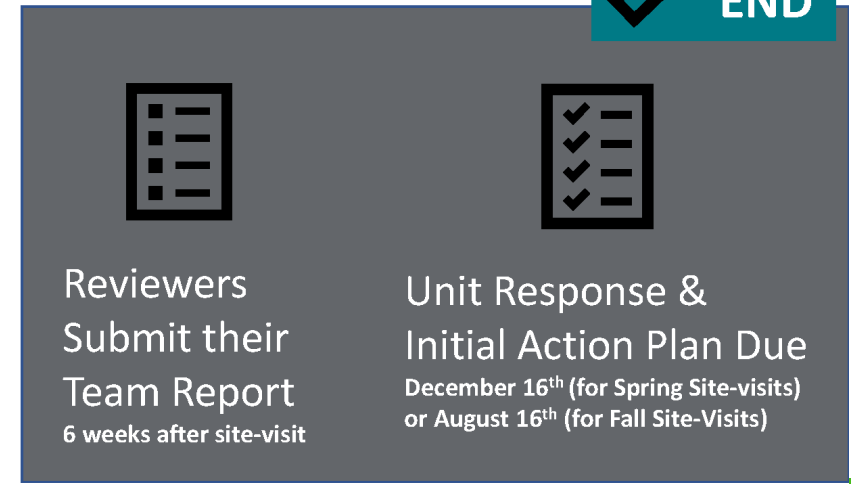
- Orientations, workshops, & self-study feedback
- Logistical coordination
 - Reviewer travel/accommodations
 - Meeting coordination
 - Senior leadership availability
- Thematic analysis
 - Annual report and targeted trends; strategic planning, facilities usage
- Centralized website & various means of communication
 - Established manual of polices and processes; updated, currently 8th Edition
 - Personalized timelines

Academic Program
Review Process



Host Site Visit!

END



SHAPING APR TO MEET UNM'S NEEDS

- Data focus
 - Demographics of students & faculty
- General education contributions
- APRs required for all Main Campus and Branch Campus programs
 - In addition to any external accreditors
 - Work around external accreditation visits; “trial run”

DATA FOCUS

- APR data workshops: data pathways, access to demographics (what we teach folks)
 - Enrollment
 - Retention
 - Graduation
- Data packages: what is provided?
- Institutional Researcher in the office who fits into the APR process

IS THE SUPPORT/PROCESS HELPFUL?

- Valuing the process due to multi-tier involvement; collaborative effort
- Reviewer Feedback Survey – sent to all reviewers
 - All agreed they were properly prepared
 - All agreed being a reviewer was meaningful
 - All agreed that the process was useful for their own institutions/departments

“In many ways, some of the challenges in this department mirror those in ours, and there were wonderful approaches that I brought back to our department”

APR IMPACT



Greater connection between programs and leadership's future vision



Targeted hires in areas of critical needs, that better reflect student population



Restructuring curricula to best prepare students for upper-level or post-grad expectations



Addressing sub-standard facilities and safety concerns



Getting leadership involved in departmental structures



Helping programs understand where they are, where they want to go, and how they get there

CONNECTING ASSESSMENT & APRS: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- UNM Assessment – annual process
- Connect an annual process with a 7-year process?
 - Assessment Criterion in all APR Self-Studies
- Reporting fatigue?
 - Units are only required to attach latest assessment plan/report
 - Small narrative of lessons-learned & changes resultant from assessment data

CONNECTING ASSESSMENT & APRS: SELF-ASSESSMENT

- OA/APR is an administrative unit; opted-in to assess ourselves
- Office assessment plan includes APR processes/metrics
 - Monthly support tracking, surveys, document updates, conducted APRs, etc.
- Office Assessment Goal 1: Satisfying the HLC's assessment & APR requirements
 - Outcome 1: Maintaining an annual process
 - Outcome 2: Continue to collect & inventory proof of processes/cycles
 - Outcome 3: Develop historical documentation

OFFERING APRS ONLINE

- March 2020 - online modality shift
 - Most scheduled APRs pushed to Fall semester
 - Conducted trial APR in Spring 2020; same schedule, all meetings through Zoom
 - Extremely well-received
 - Lesson learned –include online moderators to wrap up meetings
- All AY20-21 APRs conducted online
 - Kept to cycle
 - Zoom fatigue and facility concerns
- AY21-22 –return to in-person APRs, though some want to conduct online visits

EVOLVING PROCESS

- Online APRs as an option or backup
- Greater inclusion of the Office of Vice President for Research
- New mid-cycle check-ins, rather than annual updates
- Secondary model for Branch Campuses
 - More closely aligned with Main Campus
- General Education Program Review (GEPR) creation
 - Reviewing UNM's general education as a program unto itself

LESSONS LEARNED

- APR processes need to be tailored to your own institution
- Investment is a long process; philosophy of being a support service
- Use APRs for existing requirements
- See the APR requirement as something more; multi-tiered involvement

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THANK YOU!

- Contact apr@unm.edu
- Links:
 - apr.unm.edu
 - assessment.unm.edu
 - oia.unm.edu
 - [APR Infographic](#)