



## Outcomes Assessment

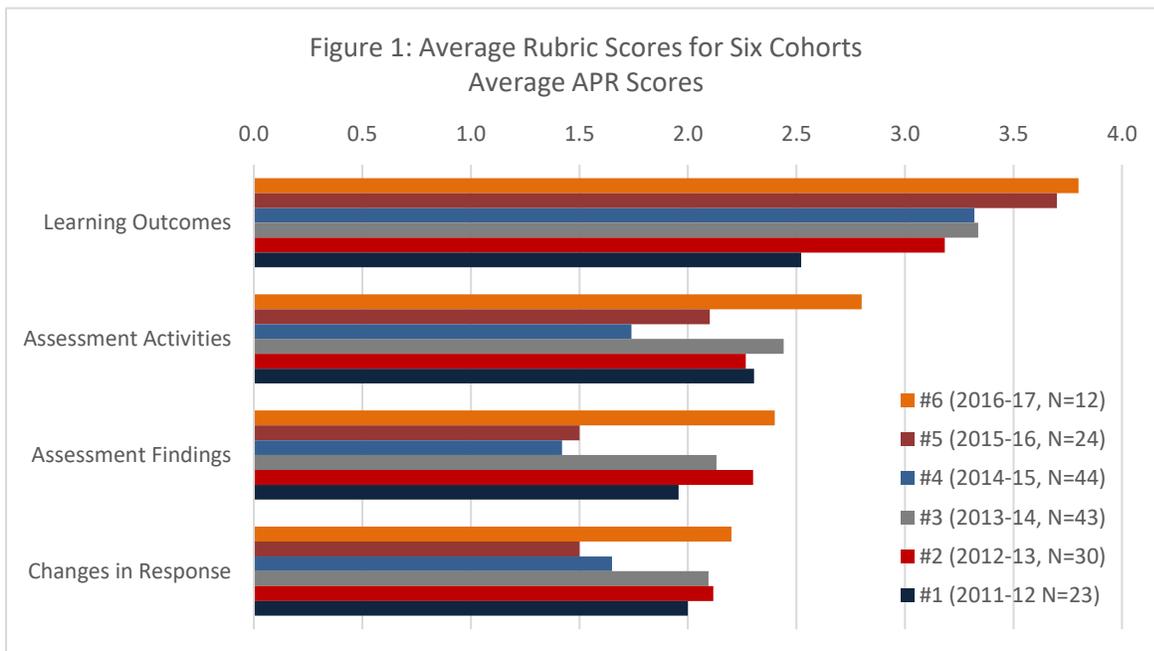
### 2017 Summary <http://assessment.arizona.edu>

The University of Arizona recognizes the importance of assessment and evaluation in improving the quality of its academic and support programs for students. Rather than viewing assessment as a reaction to demands for accountability, it is viewed as a continuous source of evidence-based knowledge for institutional improvement. As a result, a representative faculty group developed the plan for a faculty-driven process for program level assessment of student outcomes. The assessment team in the Office of Instruction and Assessment provides consultation for academic units to implement and conduct student learning outcomes assessment at the program level. In 2011, this Model was incorporated into the Academic Program Review process and the self-study report. For more detail on both the Model and the APR process go to: [Program Assessment](#)

### Assessment Impact

As of the 2016-2017 academic year, six cohorts of academic units (about 84% of all units) were engaged in the APR process requiring the student learning outcomes assessment plan. The rubric scores for each of the four criteria evaluated from self-study reports, disaggregated by cohort, are reported in Figure 1. [Click here for the rubric.](#) The number of programs evaluated is greater than the number of units as many units have multiple programs. Rubric score scale is from 1 (inadequate) to 4 (excellent).

Note that the average rubric scores for all criteria are higher than any of the prior cohorts, especially in the findings and changes in response to findings areas. These scores are by no means acceptable as an ideal target, however, they do reflect an increase of attention by departments.

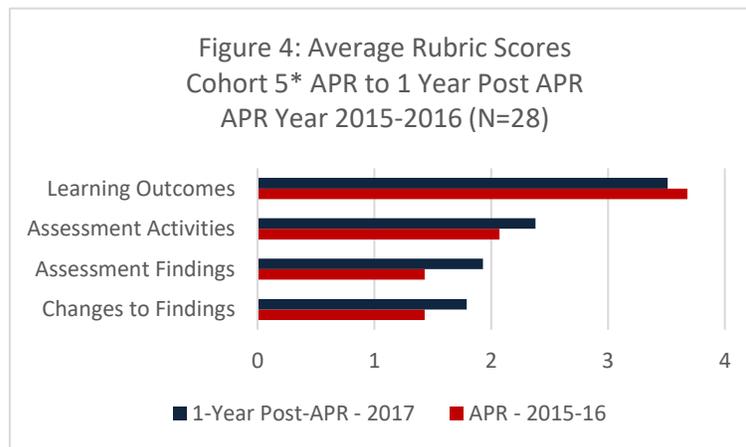
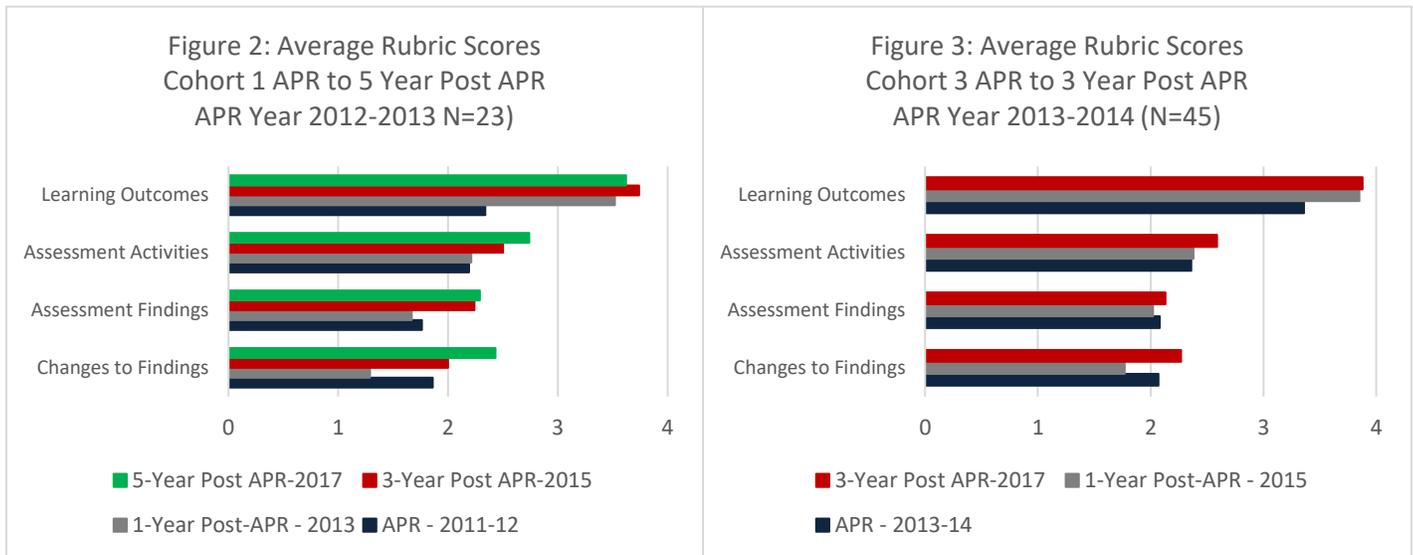




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Cohorts 1, 3, and 5 were evaluated at 1, 3 and 5 years Post APR. Figures 2-4 compare the results for the various cohorts at each scoring period. Over time, most of the programs have at least maintained their assessment efforts, however, a renewed focus on findings and changes in response to findings needs to be a priority in the future.



\*Does not include UA South Programs

**Taskstream Accountability Management System (AMS)**

Since 2009, the [assessment.arizona.edu](http://assessment.arizona.edu) was home to all of the assessment pages for all programs on campus. Programs were expected to update their plans annually. However, maintaining these pages and updating them was cumbersome and time consuming. Many programs would replace data, rather





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than build on previous years' entries and the program continuity was lost. Additionally, it was difficult to maintain the alignment of activities, findings and changes with learning outcomes. Therefore, a new system in Taskstream, the Accountability Management System (AMS) was subscribed to, in order to have a stouter, more robust assessment reporting tool. The software was piloted in 2017 with volunteer departments. The official roll-out to all colleges will begin in January, 2018, and will consist of monthly workshops from January to May, with several colleges invited each month. These two hour workshops include an overview of the system and how it works, followed by time devoted to familiarizing the participants with the system by entering their program information.

### ***Additional Highlights***

#### **Student learning outcomes assessment workshop participation**

##### *APR Assessment workshops*

In the spring semester before units engage in the APR process, the OIA assessment team facilitates a session specifically designed for units preparing for APR in the upcoming academic year. During the session, participants use the rubric to score a sample assessment plan and OIA assessment team members provide feedback on the scoring process. All 6 of the units scheduled for APR in the 2016 – 2017 academic year participated in one of the two offerings of the workshop.

#### **Assessment Matters Monthly Newsletter**

The Assessment Matters Newsletter continues to be published every month during the academic school year. This monthly newsletter provides snapshots on academic program assessment from the Office of Instruction and Assessment. Its purpose is to 1) support building and maintaining a culture of assessment and 2) serve as an instructive resource for units. It also provides a timely reminder that assessment should be ongoing, not episodic. The distribution is via email to unit heads, program assessment coordinators, and associate deans on or about the second Wednesday of each month, August to May.

#### **General Education News**

The newsletter for communication with the general education instructors has also continued to be published. This monthly publication provides policy updates, writing tips, and other helpful tips and ideas for teaching general education courses. One of the main goals of this newsletter is to remind faculty that by teaching a general education course, they are part of a larger, university-wide program, even though they are all in different disciplines and departments.

#### **GE Syllabi Collection**

All syllabi for the GE courses offered in Spring 2016 and Fall 2017 have been collected by Elaine Marchello. These syllabi have been reviewed and rubric scored for presence of learning outcomes, assessment of learning and the writing requirements. Details of the results can be found on the assessment website under general education.





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**Assessment Leadership Team**

This team, led by Ingrid Novodvorsky, is a regular meeting of institution-level assessment professionals for the purpose of sharing our scope of work and best practices, and generating ideas for collaboration. As a follow through from the previous year, the proposal for Institutional Learning Outcomes that was endorsed by ALT was presented and approved by Undergraduate Council, Provost Council, CAAC and Faculty Senate. These Institutional Outcomes have been officially approved and adopted for all undergraduate students.

For questions related to Outcomes Assessment, contact Elaine Marchello at [evm@email.arizona.edu](mailto:evm@email.arizona.edu), or Ingrid Novodvorsky at [novod@email.arizona.edu](mailto:novod@email.arizona.edu).

