



## HLC Accreditation Evidence Document

**Title:** Assessment of UNM Core Curriculum

**Office of Origin:** Office of Assessment

**Description:** Information from the Office of Assessment's website on the ongoing, cyclical assessment of the university's core curriculum.

Date: 2018

# Office of Assessment

## UNM Core Curriculum / General Education Program

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NM HED) has created five areas of General Education Common Core Curriculum. The NM HED lists specific competencies under each area and states rationales for each competency, as well as suggestions for how each competency could be assessed. The five areas of New Mexico's General Education Common Core follow:

- Area I: Communications
- Area II: Mathematics
  - College Algebra
  - Liberal Arts Math
  - Statistics
- Area III: Laboratory Sciences
- Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Area V: Humanities, Foreign Languages, and Fine Arts

The University of New Mexico (UNM) has developed a Core Curriculum which reflects the five areas of the NM HED General Education Common Core Curriculum. All undergraduate students must complete 37 credit hours of courses from the UNM Core Curriculum to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. The UNM Core Curriculum consists of seven areas of lower-division courses that not only aligns with the five areas of the NM HED General Education Common Core Curriculum but also are designed to enhance students' academic capabilities and intellectual development.

- Area I: Writing and Speaking – NM HED Area I: Communications
- Area II: Mathematics – NM HED Area II: Mathematics
- Area III: Physical and Natural Sciences – NM HED Area III: Laboratory Sciences
- Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences – NM HED Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Area V: Humanities – NM HED Area V: Humanities and Fine Arts Competencies
- Area VI: Foreign Languages – NM HED Area V: Humanities, Foreign Languages, and Fine Arts
- Area VII: Fine Arts – NM HED Area V: Humanities, Foreign Languages, and Fine Arts

The UNM Core Curriculum was designed to meet two goals: **1)** to give all students at UNM a foundation in the broad knowledge and intellectual values of a liberal arts education and **2)** to assure that graduates have a shared academic experience.

The primary goal of assessing course level student learning outcomes associated with the UNM Core Curriculum is to ensure that general education courses are taught so that UNM students are competent in the core knowledge needed to pursue their academic and career aspirations. Reporting on the assessment of these course level student learning outcomes documents how the six steps of an assessment cycle (see diagram below) is completed in each Core course throughout the academic year.



As of Summer 2015, the UNM Core Curriculum assessment cycle begins in the summer and ends in the spring—spanning the summer, fall, and spring semesters. The assessment cycle timeline for academic programs is the same as the academic year timeline at UNM.

## UNM Annual General Education Comprehensive Assessment Report

**Academic Years:** 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018

This annual institutional report provides a review and synthesis of the course level assessment reports that are collected on UNM Core courses. The annual course level assessment reports, with accompanying evidence, document the assessment and analysis of course level student learning outcomes associated with UNM's General Education Program (also known as the UNM Core Curriculum).

## UNM Core Curriculum/General Education Program Course Level Student Learning Outcomes

The University is in the process of developing and adopting a common set of course level student learning outcomes (SLOs) for each Core course. Starting in the Summer of 2016, these course level SLOs will be implemented and measured across all five campuses simultaneously. The annual course level assessment reports, with accompanying evidence, from each campus will then be used to demonstrate the University's utilization of multiple assessment data and assessment methods to assess and analyze UNM's General Education Program (also known as UNM Core Curriculum) at the course level.

## UNM Core Curriculum/General Education Program Assessment Plan

This document provides a comprehensive blueprint of UNM's General Education Program assessment structure and timeline including the assessment processes and methods for measuring course level student learning outcomes associated with each area of the UNM Core Curriculum.


## Course Level Assessment Plans


Each academic program and/or college, school, and branch have the option of developing an assessment plan that outlines their assessment process and methods for measuring the course level student learning outcomes of Core course associated with their program. Please contact the relevant program chair for access to and/or information on possible course level assessment plans.

## Course Level Annual Assessment Reports

Academic programs associated with one or more Core courses in the UNM Core Curriculum are responsible for ensuring that a course level assessment report is submitted annually for each relevant Core course for review and feedback by their College Assessment Review Committee (CARC), or the equivalent. Keep in mind that programs and/or relevant faculty are expected to report only on the course level student learning outcomes (SLOs) that were measured during the previous academic year or the most recently completed assessment cycle. Each program is responsible for making sure that the relevant faculty write and submit an annual course level assessment report for its Core courses.

All reports have to be collected and reviewed by the CARC, or the equivalent, by February 1st. However, CARCs, or the equivalent, are expected to establish internal processes and deadlines prior to February 1st to allow for adequate time in reviewing and providing relevant feedback to programs on their reports. The CARCs are responsible for ensuring that the Office of Assessment has access to all annual course level assessment reports, including accompanying evidence, by February 1st. Please contact the chair of the CARC, or the equivalent, for your college, school, or branch for access to and/or information on course level assessment reports and internal processes and deadlines.

 [Institutional Reports](#)

 [Documents and Templates](#)

 [TK20](#)

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