



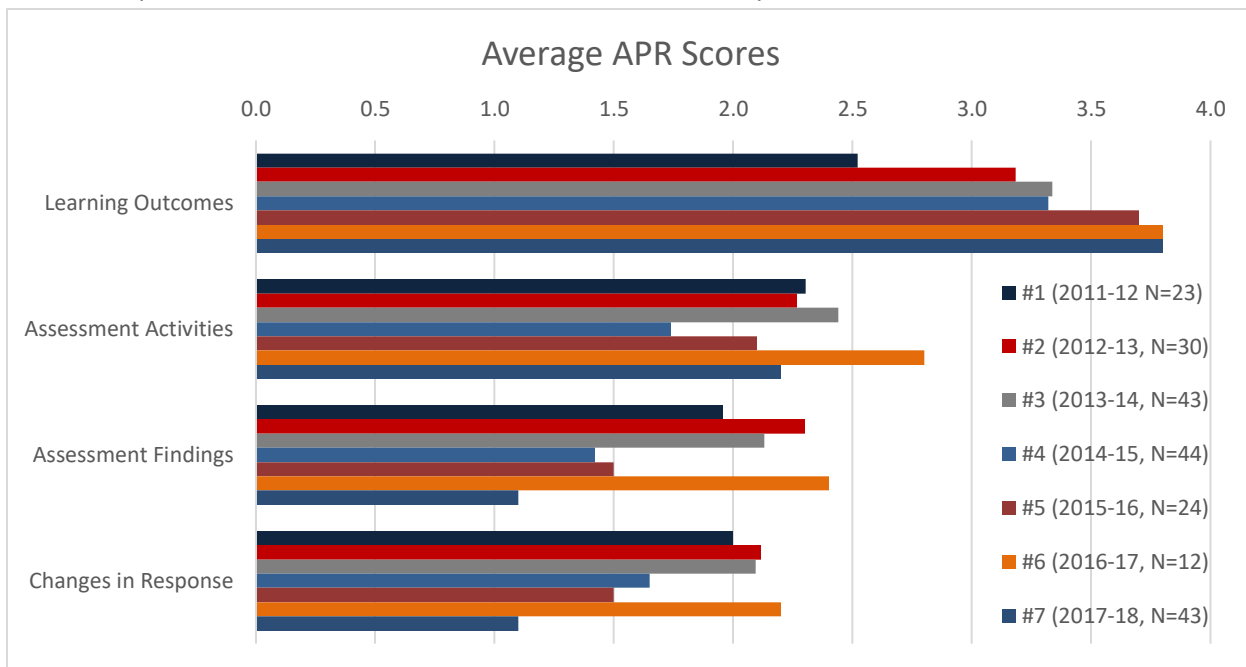
**Outcomes Assessment**  
**2018 Summary** <http://assessment.arizona.edu>

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**

The 2017-2018 academic year marked the seventh and final cohort to engage in the APR process requiring reporting of student learning outcomes assessment. This was also the first year that assessment reporting was evaluated within Taskstream AMS. The scoring rubric language was refined, and a few additional criteria were added. However, to maintain continuity, the scores for each of the four criteria evaluated from self-study reports since Cohort 1, 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).

Except for Learning Outcomes, the average scores were somewhat lower in Cohort 7 as compared to other cohorts. This is most likely attributed to the transition to the new reporting system. There were several departments that did not make the transition smoothly.

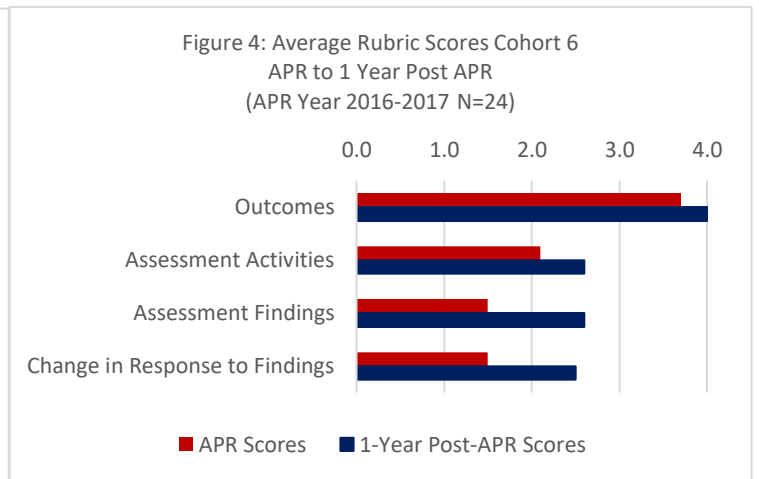
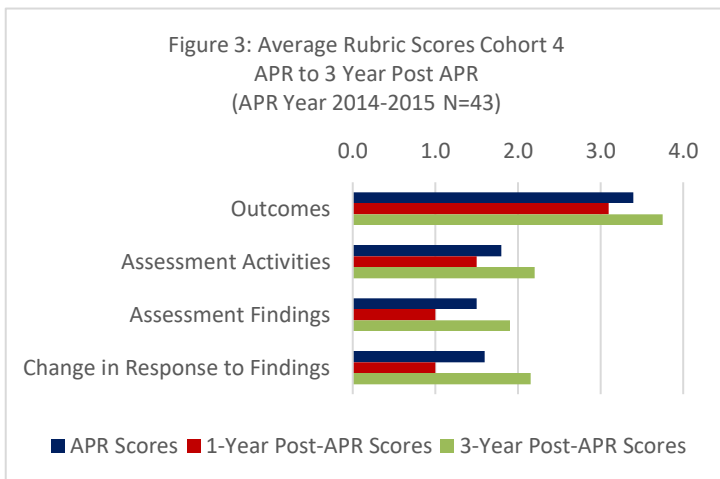
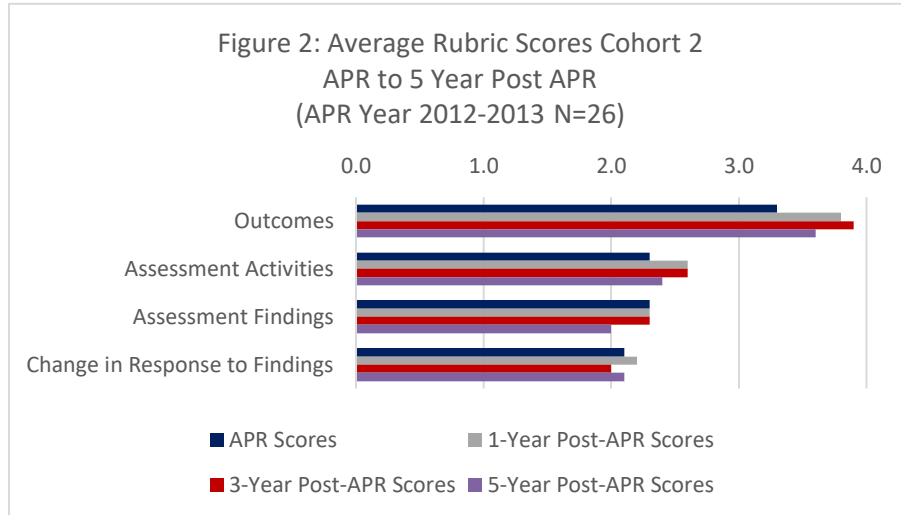




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Cohorts 2, 4, and 6 were evaluated at 1, 3 and 5 years Post APR. Figures 2-4 compare the results for the various cohorts at each scoring period. It appears that Cohort 2 maintained their assessment plans, while both Cohorts 4 and 6 clearly improved in all areas. One note: Due to the transition into AMS, not all programs within each cohort had reported scores for this past year. Some of the have not yet entered their assessment information into AMS. Efforts are being taken to correct this.



### ***Rubric scoring of “off” year cohorts for formative feedback***

Because of the increased efficiency of evaluating assessment plans in AMS, the assessment team was able to evaluate ALL programs that were submitted for review. Those programs not part of the 1, 3 or 5 year post APR cohorts were unofficially evaluated to give formative feedback to the programs. With this approach we hope to see more complete assessment information reported in a timely manner.

### ***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 evaluate a sample assessment plan and OIA assessment team members provide feedback on the evaluation process. Nine of the units scheduled for APR in the 2017 – 2018 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.

#### **General Education Task Force**

Two team members were part of the General Education Task force in 2018. The charge of this committee was to assess our current General Education Program and make recommendations for improvements moving forward.



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### **Assessment Leadership Team**

Now in its third year, 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.

### **Follow-up on Taskstream AMS Implementation**

The spring bi-monthly AMS workshops were well attended by representatives from most colleges. After the last workshop the assessment team members held open office hours which were also well-attended to answer questions and troubleshoot. However, it was apparent after conducting these workshops, that there is a need for an Assessment: Back to Basics workshop in spring 2019. Two of those workshops are planned.

### **Assessment Outreach**

Both Ingrid Novodvorsky and Elaine Marchello participated in several conferences in 2018. They presented at three of those meetings about the assessment process at UA. Watermark also invited them to present their talk via a national webinar.

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).

