



Spring 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1



Eye on Assessment

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Top 5 Reasons to Visit Our Website | 1 |
| Data Quote of the Month | 1 |
| Hot off the Press: Mason Alumni Head to Grad School | 2 |
| Meet the Staff | 2 |
| What "APR" Means to You | 2 |
| Ask Assessment | 2 |

Top 5 Reasons to Visit Assessment.gmu.edu

1. It looks fantastic!

After more than eight years of the same look, we have redesigned, reorganized, and updated our pages into a fresh, professional, appealing, and user friendly website.

2. Our data is overflowing!

Our "Results and Reports" page contains data from all our survey research projects. For example, within the exit survey results section, you can view graduating student survey data from 1997 to present, organized into three levels: university, college, and major, making it easy to locate your unit's data. Check it out!

3. We've got answers to your program review questions.

Is your unit in the process of a self-assessment? Will you be soon? Our page

devoted to program review is full of guidelines to make the process run smoothly.

Whether you need data, want to download templates for your final report, or just want to check out the schedule, the APR page can help.

4. SCHEV requires it.

Well, not really, but did you know the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV) requires the assessment of six student learning competencies? Faculty teams assembled by OIA meet regularly to discuss the assessment of these competencies. You can find listings of committee

members, assessment plans, and reports for each competency on our site.



Office of Institutional Assessment
Welcome!

The primary mission of the Office of Institutional Assessment (OIA) is to support the university goal of providing a superior educational experience for all our students. OIA has these major responsibilities:

- Assessing student learning outcomes in writing, oral communication, critical thinking, information technology, quantitative reasoning and scientific reasoning
- Assessing student learning outcomes in general education
- Providing guidance and support for academic program review
- Conducting survey research

For All Inquiries:
4400 University Drive,
MS 3030
Fairfax, Virginia - 22030
Phone: 703-993-8634
Email: assessment@gmu.edu

▪ Student exit surveys
▪ Alumni surveys
▪ Freshman surveys
▪ National Survey of Student Engagement

<http://assessment.gmu.edu>

5. We can point you in the right direction.

Think of us as your own "Google" for assessment links and tools. Links to assessment news articles, educational associations, an online tool for assessing your instructional goals, and much more can be found on our "Resources" page.

So, please—add us to your favorites!

Contact OIA

What do you think of our first newsletter?

Have questions you need answered or ideas for future content?

We'd love to hear from you!

Please submit feedback to
Erin McSherry,
Eye on Assessment Editor
emcsherr@gmu.edu

Data Quote of the Month

Of the Fall 2005 incoming freshmen class, *did you know that:*

20% were born outside the US, compared to 9% of freshmen at public universities nationally?

30% think it is essential to attend a college with a multi-ethnic student body?



80% expect to spend at least one hour studying for each hour spent in class?

Find these facts interesting?

Watch for complete results of the *2005 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey* in your mailbox and online soon!

Many Mason Alumni Head to Grad School

As reported on OIA's *2005 Alumni Survey - Baccalaureate Degree Recipients from 1999-2000*, 41% of Mason alumni have completed or are currently enrolled in graduate degree programs.

Of these grads, one-third chose to continue their education at Mason.

Want to know more?



Hot off the Press!

Check out our latest *In Focus* publication for details on what the alumni are up to, how well prepared they were for life after graduation, what about Mason gives them the most pride, and more.

All *In Focus* reports are available online in our "Results and Reports" page: <http://assessment.gmu.edu/Results/index.html>

Request paper copies at 993-8834.

Who are We? Meet the Staff of OIA

Karen Gentemann, Director

Ying Zhou, Assoc Director

Mary Zamon, Asst Director

Santhosh Balla, Applications Analyst

Erin McSherry, Program Support

OIA is located in Mason Hall, D111



Ask Assessment

Hey Assessment, is your office the one that...



Administers graduating surveys?

 Yes! OIA administers three graduating student surveys each semester, the Graduating Senior Survey (GSS), Graduate Student Exit Survey (GES), and the Law Student Exit Survey. As the

last step in the graduation application process, the surveys give students the chance to provide feedback on their programs and experiences at Mason.

All three surveys are primarily online but also available in paper.

If you ever come across one, please send it our way!

Has data on the freshman class?

 Yes! Every few years, OIA participates in the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey. Administered to entering freshmen, the data provides a profile of Mason's first-time, full-time freshman class and outlines their expectations for college at Mason. Survey results may also be used to compare our students with their coun-

terparts in other public universities. All reports from these surveys can be found on our website!

Coordinates course evaluations?

 Nope, the Office of Institutional Research & Reporting (IRR) coordinates distribution and collection of course/instructor evaluations. IRR may be reached at 993-8824.

OIA
Office of
Institutional
Assessment

What "APR" Means to You

Five departments are beginning the three semester new Academic Program Review process.

This provost-initiated process consists of a Self-Assessment, a seven year Academic Plan, a Review Team Report, program consultation with the provost and annual updates on progress.

As Dr. Stearns says, the APR process allows structured time "for reflection on our academic programs, on where we have been, where we are and where we want to be."

Visit assessment.gmu.edu or email assessment@gmu.edu to learn more.