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.

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!

Data Quote of the Month

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

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

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.

Hot off the Press!

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.

Who are We? Meet the Staff of OIA

Karen Gentemann, Director
Santhosh Balla, Applications Analyst
Ying Zhou, Assoc Director
Erin McSherry, Program Support
Mary Zamon, Asst Director
OIA is located in Mason Hall, D111

Ask Assessment

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 counterparts 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.