Using Data for Academic Program Review and Assessment

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Announcement

Mason has upgraded to a new version of WEAVEonline®. Users can still access the WEAVE log-in page at http://weave.gmu.edu, but if you had the old log-in page bookmarked, here is the new link: http://app.weaveonline.com/gmu/login.aspx. We are offering workshops throughout the fall to help users transition to the new version.

♦ Academic Program Review (APR) is based on a process in which faculty identify the most appropriate objectives for a specific academic degree program and for scholarly activity and service. A wide variety of data and measures are used to examine whether the academic unit and the university are achieving these objectives.

♦ The Office of Institutional Assessment (OIA) has many tools on its website to assist faculty and staff in using data for APR and other assessment activities. The resources listed here can be found at https://assessment.gmu.edu/AcademicProgramReview/dataresources/dataresources.cfm.

Some of the available data tools include:

♦ Graduating Senior Survey
Survey topics include learning outcomes, synthesis courses, writing experiences, global understanding, civic engagement, advising, satisfaction with academic experiences, satisfaction with university services, transfer experiences, employment/future education plans, comments on Mason experiences, etc. Student comments can be searched by key words. For program level data, view results by “Major.”

♦ Program Alumni Survey
Conducted by OIA during Academic Program Review, department password required.
Online results, by program, to questions relating to students’ post-

OIA Data Resources Page

To learn more about assessment, or to register for one of our workshops, visit: https://assessment.gmu.edu

Please submit feedback to Karen Manley, Eye on Assessment Editor kmanley@gmu.edu
703-993-8834
MSN: 3D2

Mason Career Census
A cooperative project involving University Career Services, Institutional Assessment, and the Alumni Association. Information about job placement and graduate school enrollment, including employer information, position, salary range, graduate school names, degree types and disciplines for future study. Data can be used for student career advising and assessing career related program goals.

♦ University Factbooks
Prepared by Institutional Research and Reporting, http://irr.gmu.edu
Includes a wide variety of data, such as expenditures by organizational units over several years and research funding support (see the section on Sponsored Programs). Faculty data can be used for the “Faculty” sections of the APR Self Assessment Report and the Academic Action Plan.

Data Workshops will be held on October 9 & November 4, 2008.

Office of Institutional Assessment (OIA)
Volume 3, Issue 2
Fall 2008

Ask Assessment

What features have been added to the new version of WEAVEonline®?

♦ **Text formatting** — There is now a toolbar feature that lets you customize your text: **bold**, *italic*, colors and fonts are just some of the options now available.

♦ **Document Repository** — Do you have an Excel table that you wish you could put into your measures & findings? How about a supporting document for your mission statement? Now you can link documents to your assessment information by keeping them in your entity’s repository.

♦ **Assessment Essentials** — See all of your outcomes, measures & findings on one organized page. There is no longer a need to click back and forth between different tabs.

### Upcoming Assessment Workshops*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>10:00am - 11:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using Institutional and OIA Data for APR and Assessment</td>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>1:30pm - 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tools for Curriculum Mapping</td>
<td>October 22</td>
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<td>Rubrics</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>10:00am - 11:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using Institutional and OIA Data for APR and Assessment</td>
<td>November 4</td>
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<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
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<td>Tools for Curriculum Mapping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubrics</td>
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*Register online for our workshops @ [https://assessment.gmu.edu/workshops.cfm](https://assessment.gmu.edu/workshops.cfm)

### Data Quotes

The Graduating Senior Survey Report 2006-07 has just been released. The survey had a response rate of 85%. Highlights include:

♦ Over 80% of the 2007 graduates rated themselves competent in each of the 14 general education learning goals.

♦ For each of the 14 general education learning outcomes, students who reported that they had taken courses at Mason that emphasized a particular learning outcome are significantly more likely to feel competent in that area than their counterparts who did not take or who didn’t remember taking such a course at Mason.

♦ Overall, 97% of Mason graduates felt they were competent in analyzing work in their field and had sufficient knowledge about important work in their field. About 90% felt they were competent in conducting original research or creating original work in their field.

Visit our website [https://assessment.gmu.edu/Results/GraduatingSenior/senior.html](https://assessment.gmu.edu/Results/GraduatingSenior/senior.html) to see program level results of the survey. To get a copy of the entire report, contact us at 703-993-8834 or assessmt@gmu.edu.