ASSESSMENT GRANTS: 2017-18

Purpose
The purpose of UNO Assessment Grants is to foster a culture of assessment at both the course and program levels. A culture of assessment has many facets. These include:

- **Relevance** - The identification of fundamental skills students need to be successful at the next level, whether the level is subsequent courses in the program, employment, or graduate school.
- **Community** - The establishment of structures, policies, and/or practices which are inclusive of a broad spectrum of faculty, staff, and/or students.
- **Focus** - The development of specific assessments requiring a reasonable allocation of resources.
- **Evidence** - The collection and analysis of data of reasonable quality which give indication of what students have learned.
- **Betterment** - The process of making decisions and taking actions to improve teaching and learning (Suskie, 2014).\(^1\)

Evaluation Criteria for Grants
Grant applications will be evaluated by the Academic Assessment Committee and/or the General Education Committee. Applications will be assessed on the five dimensions of a culture of assessment.

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<th>Dimension is clearly addressed (3)</th>
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**Total Score_______**

Mini-Grant Options

**Option A - Course Objectives Assessment**
Option A is open to single or joint applicants who want to be able to determine if students are achieving learning objectives for a course. Participants will focus on the assessment (i.e., student task parameters, scoring rubric, and proficiency levels) of one or more course objectives. Applicants may propose to create an assessment tool or significantly revise an

existing one. Course level assessment grants will be for $500/course, and will span a single semester (i.e., Fall 2017 or Spring 2018).

Option B - General Education (GenEd) Course Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessment
Option B is open to single or joint applicants who want to be able to determine if students are achieving GenEd curriculum learning outcomes for an approved GenEd course. Participants will focus on assessment (i.e., student task parameters, scoring rubric, and proficiency levels) of each of the four GenEd SLOs. Applicants may propose to create one or more common assessment tools or significantly revise existing tools which will be implemented in all sections of the course. GenEd course level assessment grants will be for $1,000-$2,000/course, depending on the complexity of the proposal and level of coordination required, and will span a single semester (i.e., Fall 2017 or Spring 2018).

Option C - Program Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessment Cohort
Option C is open to joint applicants (two or more faculty members) who want to be able to determine if student majors are achieving SLOs for a program. Participants will focus on the assessment (i.e., student task parameters, scoring rubric, and proficiency levels) of two or more program SLOs. Applicants may propose to create one or more assessment tools or significantly revise existing tools. Program level assessment grants will be for $2,500-3,500/program assessment cohort, depending on the complexity of the proposal and level of coordination required, and will span a single semester (i.e., Fall 2017 or Spring 2018).

Option D - General Education (GenEd) Program Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Interdisciplinary Assessment Cohort
Option D is open to joint applicants who represent different academic departments (faculty members from two or more departments) who want to be able to determine if students are achieving GenEd curriculum SLOs within a GenEd distribution area; specifically fundamental academic skills, the social sciences, natural and physical sciences, humanities and fine arts, or U.S. or global diversity. Participants will focus on the assessment (i.e., student task parameters, scoring rubric, and proficiency levels) of each of the four GenEd outcomes. Applicants may propose to create one or more common assessment tools, significantly revise existing tools, or create common rubrics which will be applied in two or more GenEd courses from different departments. GenEd program level assessment grants will be for $2,500-3,500/GenEd program assessment cohort, depending on the complexity of the proposal and level of coordination required, and will span a single semester (i.e., Fall 2017 or Spring 2018).

Eligibility, Requirements, and Application Information
Eligibility
Assessment grants are limited to full-time faculty members. Preference will be given to faculty and units that have not received a previous assessment grant.
Requirements
To encourage assessment conversations and peer mentoring on campus, awardees will be expected to:

- Attend two assessment cohort meetings:
  - Fall 2017 applicants will attend an orientation and getting started session in August 2017 and an October mid-project check in meeting.
  - Spring 2018 applicants will attend an orientation and getting started session in December 2017 and a February/March mid-project check in meeting.

- Participate in an assessment-related professional development activity of awardee’s choice during the semester of the grant (e.g., read book/articles on assessment in higher education, attend a UNO-sponsored event or a professional conference with assessment-related content).

- Prepare a poster presentation on the project in Fall 2018 geared toward sharing information about the process with the UNO community.

- Submit a brief final report on the project by January 19, 2018 for Fall 2017 participants, and by May 15, 2018 for Spring 2018 participants. The report should include:
  - Created or revised assessment tool(s), targeted SLO(s), evaluation rubrics (if applicable), and proficiency levels of the assessment
  - Brief narrative (two-three paragraphs) describing how the assessment grant contributed (or will contribute) to continuous improvement of teaching and learning within the course, program, or GenEd curriculum
  - Options A and B: Aggregated results of at least one administration of the course (Option A) or GenEd SLOs (Option B) assessment or a proposed plan outlining the implementation timeline of the assessment in upcoming semesters
  - Option C: Revised program level assessment plan incorporating new assessments (departmental approval may be pending)
  - Option D: Proposed plan with timelines outlining implementation of the assessment(s) in each awardee’s unit.

Applications
Applications are due electronically to Connie Schaffer (cschaffer@unomaha.edu) by April 1, 2017. Applications should be no longer than three pages and include the following:

- Overview of the project including the rationale and relevance of the assessment effort
- Course(s) name and number- Options B and D must be in GenEd approved courses
- Department/Program name(s)
- Course objective(s) or program SLOs to be addressed in the assessment(s):
  - Option A: Course objective(s)
  - Option B: Specific GenEd distribution area and its four corresponding GenEd SLOs
  - Option C: At least two program level SLOs.
  - Option D: Specific GenEd distribution area and its four corresponding GenEd SLOs
- General description of the assessment tool(s) to be developed (or revised) to assess the course objectives or the program/GenEd SLOs
- Assessment domain of the tool (i.e., product, performance, or examination)
- Preliminary plan for collecting data and systematically reviewing results of the assessment with program or GenEd faculty
• Timeline or benchmarks for developing the assessments, scoring rubrics, and proficiency levels as well as the timing of the implementation of the assessments

• Budget related to the assessment grant (e.g., faculty stipend, faculty retreat, professional development, conference registration fees, materials, etc.)
  NOTE: All travel-related requests are subject to the approval of the participants’ Chairs/Directors and Deans in accordance with current University of Nebraska travel policies as outlined by President Bounds.

• Assessment Grant Cover Sheet with required signatures - available on the UNO Center for Faculty Excellence website:
  http://www.unomaha.edu/faculty-support/assessment/index.php

Applications require the approval signature of all applicants’ Chairs/Directors as well as their Deans or Assistant/Associate Deans (see Assessment Grant Cover Sheet).

Applications will be reviewed by the Academic Assessment Committee and/or the General Education Committee with award announcements made by April 28, 2017.