ASSESSMENT GRANTS: 2016-17

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).

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

Mini-Grant Options
**Option A - Course Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 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-level SLOs. Applicants may propose to create an assessment tool or significantly revise an existing one. Course level assessment grants will be for $500/course.

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Option B - General Education 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 general education curriculum learning objectives 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.

Option C - Program Assessment Cohort
Option C is open to joint applicants (must have 2 or more faculty members) who want to be able to determine if student majors are achieving learning objectives for a program. Participants will focus on the assessment (i.e., student task parameters, scoring rubric, and proficiency levels) of two or more program-level 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.

Option D - General Education Program Interdisciplinary Assessment Cohort
Option D is open to joint applicants who represent different academic departments (faculty members from 2 or more departments) who want to be able to determine if student majors are achieving general education curriculum learning objectives within a GenEd distribution area, specifically 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 objectives. Applicants may propose to create one or more common assessment tools or significantly revise existing tools which will be uniformly implemented in two or more courses representing 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.

Eligibility, Requirements, and Application Information

Eligibility
Assessment grants are limited to full-time faculty members who are not current or recent (2014-15 or 2015-16) members of the Academic Assessment Committee.

Requirements
To encourage assessment conversations and peer mentoring on campus, awardees are expected to participate in the following:

- Attend 2 (Options A and B) or 3 (Options C and D) assessment cohort meetings - December (orientation and getting started) and February (mid-project check in). Additionally, Options C and D will meet in March/April (second check in).
- Participate in an assessment-related professional development activity in 2016-17 (e.g., purchase/read a book on assessment in higher education, attend a UNO CFE/API event, attend a conference with assessment-related content).
- Prepare a poster presentation on the project in Fall 2017 geared toward sharing information about the process with the UNO community.
- A brief final report on the project is due by June 1, 2017 and should include:
  - The assessment tool(s), targeted SLO(s), evaluation rubrics, and proficiency targets.
  - Brief narrative (1-2 paragraphs) describing how 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 or GenEd SLO assessment.
  - Option C: Revised program level assessment plan incorporating new assessments. (NOTE: Departmental approval may be pending.)
  - Option D: Proposed plan to implement assessment(s) in participants’ own unit.

Applications
Applications are due electronically to Connie Schaffer (cschaffer@unomaha.edu) by November 1, 2016. They should address the following and be no longer than 2-3 double-spaced pages:
- Overview of project plus rationale and relevance of focused assessment effort.
- Identify the course or program and SLO(s) that will be the focus of the assessments:
  - Option A: Course level SLO(s) and course name/number.
  - Option B: General Education Distribution Area, corresponding SLOs, and GenEd approved course name/number.
  - Option C: At least two program-level SLOs and degree program name.
  - Option D: General Education Distribution Area, corresponding SLOs, and Gen Ed approved course names/numbers.
- General description of the assessment tool(s) that will be developed (or revised) to assess the course, program level, or GenEd SLO(s) including the assessment domain into which they fall (i.e., product, performance, or examination).
- Preliminary plan for collecting data and systematically reviewing results of SLO assessments with program or GenEd faculty.
- A timeline or bench marks 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.).
- Names and contact information for all team members plus identification of team leader.

Applications require the approval signature of all applicants’ Chairs/Directors as well as their Deans or Assistant/Associate Deans.

Applications will be reviewed by the Academic Assessment Committee and/or the General Education Committee with award announcements made by December 1, 2016.