

College of Arts and Sciences Spring 2026 Assessment Grants: Call for Proposals

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The College of Arts and Sciences Assessment Review Committee at UNM invites applications for assessment project grants in Spring 2026. These grants are available for A&S faculty to support assessment projects that promote improvements in teaching, learning, program delivery, and curricular enhancements that advance student success.

A new focus this year is developing a bank of resources and faculty willing to serve as mentors to units who are in the process of developing or significantly reworking their assessment plans. Examples of resources include assessment plans, rubrics, or samples of direct or indirect assessment methods.

Proposals should be no more than 2 single-spaced pages in length and describe how the proposed project aligns with department and college strategic planning efforts. Several grants of up to \$2,000 each will be awarded. The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 17th**. Please send application via email to Satya Maliakal Witt, Special Assistant to the Dean for Assessment and Strategic Academic Planning, at assessmentas@unm.edu.

Purpose

In alignment with the [UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined Goal II](#) and the [College of Arts and Sciences \(CAS\) Student Success Strategic Plan](#), CAS Spring 2026 assessment grants support a student-centered approach to education. These grants fund initiatives that seek to enhance assessment practices by implementing evidence-based, equitable strategies aimed at eliminating barriers and improving student success.

Spring 2026 Assessment grant proposals should address one or more of the following areas:

AREA I: Academic Program Learning Outcomes Assessment – Examples of projects include but are not limited to:

1. Creating or significantly updating program assessment plans to kick-start assessment efforts in alignment with [UNM's "reset" in program assessment](#). Strong applications will demonstrate improvement of assessment methods for your unit (e.g. strong alignment between outcomes and measures, and/or robust benchmarks for student success, curriculum mapping to aid alignment etc) and commitment to professional development (choose from Office of Assessment workshops, collaboration with CTL, or external resources). *Please note in your application if you would be interested in consulting with a faculty assessment mentor as you embark on your process.*
2. Developing a portfolio of exemplar program assessment materials that highlight best practices in program assessment and could serve as mentoring tools. The portfolio will consist of: description of development process, a sample program assessment plan, and self-analysis of strengths and areas of growth. *Please note in your application if you would be interested in serving as a faculty assessment mentor for units working on developing or reworking assessments.*

3. Assessing the impact of program improvement strategies on student learning outcomes, retention, and/or graduation rates, including identifying strengths and opportunities that emerged in the assessment process in light of program improvements and developing recommendations on how the assessment process could be improved.

AREA II: General Education Coursework Learning Outcomes Assessment –

Examples of projects include but are not limited to:

1. Assessing the impact of changes focused on improving DFW rates in a single course or in a GenEd coursework sequence.
2. Integrating and evaluating the impact of inclusive instruction and assessment methods in a course or multiple courses in a GenEd coursework sequence.

Special consideration will be given to:

- Proposals from new applicants who have not previously received assessment grant(s).
- Proposals from applicants from units with strong assessment practices who are willing to share expertise and resources
- Proposals that include interdisciplinary approaches to assessment that contribute to the success of students in multiple courses and programs.
- Proposals that address specific goals in the A&S Student Success Strategic Plan.

Award Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to complete the following:

1. Submit a written report describing the project, its outcomes, and how the results were used. Deadline: May 15th, 2027, **OR**
2. Design a poster presentation about the project (to be displayed in CAS / individual Department or Program websites). Deadline: May 15th, 2027

Allowable Costs

1. Assessment books, resources, or instruments.
2. Faculty development resources (summer compensation to create assessment plans and related instruments, or to compile exemplar assessment artifacts).
3. Hourly student employment to assist with data collection and/or analysis.
4. External consulting from disciplinary experts in assessment.

**Spring 2026 Assessment Grant Proposal Application,
College of Arts and Sciences**

Name:

Email:

Position:

Department/Program:

Select Area and Project Focus you are applying for (see descriptions above):

- Area I (Program Assessment): Focus #1**
- Area I (Program Assessment): Focus #2**
- Area I (Program Assessment): Focus #3**
- Area I (Program Assessment): Other Focus**
- Area II (General Education Assessment): Focus #1**
- Area II (General Education Assessment): Focus #2**
- Area II (General Education Assessment): Other Focus**

Previous Award Recipient? (Yes or No)

Last Assessment Report Submission (mm/dd/yy, if applicable)

Amount Requested (up to \$2000)

If Area I Focus #1 was selected, please provide a brief description of assessment efforts that have been made in your unit (if any) and discuss what has worked or not worked well with these efforts. What are the motivating factors for creating an assessment plan, or significantly updating the existing plan? Who will be responsible for this work and who will support it?

If Area I Focus #2 was selected, please provide evidence of the strength of your current assessment process (in your class and/or academic unit) and identify artifacts that you would be willing to share. Share if you are interested in serving as a faculty assessment mentor for units working on developing or reworking assessments.

For all other areas and foci, please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the proposed change to improve assessment processes and/or student learning in your Department/Program.
2. Describe the assessment evidence/experiences that led you to this proposed change.
3. Describe how your proposed assessment project aligns with your Department/Program's strategic planning efforts and the College of Arts and

Sciences' student success strategic plan, highlighting specific goals and objectives that your project addresses.

4. Explain who will lead the implementation of the proposed changes and why they are the right person/people to do so.
5. Describe the timeline for implementation.

Finally, for all proposals, please include a budget and budget justification for the proposed project.

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