Program Review and Assessment: Chair and College Dean

Reliable information about research, teaching, and service as well as deep institutional knowledge and disciplinary expertise are essential to effective program review and assessment. Academic Analytics provides objective, comparative, discipline-specific descriptions of unit research activity as reflected in clearly identified scholarly venues. Combined with strategic indicators on teaching, student outcomes, and service maintained by the institution, Academic Analytics data and tools contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the strengths, vulnerabilities, and opportunities present in an academic unit.

Conduct Program Review Through Analyzing the Unit's Unique Practice of the Discipline

Academic Analytics enables units to establish the most appropriate national comparative context, situating the unit's research record in relation to the entire nation, to peer groups based on Carnegie classifications, or to tailored peer groups identified by the unit or the university. The newly developed capacity to extend time windows insures that scholarly activity in each discipline is viewed within a time frame appropriate for its particular publication patterns.

Case Study

Lydia Snover, Director of Institutional Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shared an approach to the use of data in MIT's program review process. MIT selects specific variables depending on the discipline and visualizes them in the context of disciplinary peer data. In addition, they use their own set of strategic indicators including student outcomes, faculty profiles and graduate administrative data to complete program and department assessment. Massachusetts Institute of Technology began conducting program reviews in 1875. They incorporated the use of Academic Analytics data and tools into their rigorous review process in 2011.

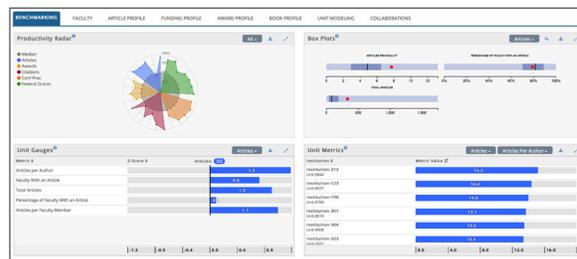> Use unit identity to ground assessment.
>
> Use external and internal views of unit research activity for a thorough assessment.

Deep Contextualization of Unit Research Activity Grounds Fair Assessment

Academic Analytics data and tools enable a deep contextualization of a unit's research activity, both identifying key dimensions of scholarly accomplishment and pointing toward ways of sustaining and strengthening that record of achievement. Are the achievements of the faculty appropriately recognized in the honors and awards they have earned? How might that level of recognition be elevated? Are there potential collaborative opportunities – on campus and around the nation – that can be made more visible to researchers? Do research funding records and sources in the unit fully represent the highest potential of the faculty?

These are among many questions that can be usefully addressed when using Academic Analytics data and tools as part of the unit review process.

The Academic Analytics portal Benchmarking page provides the information you need to conduct successful program and departmental reviews.