

Program Review and Assessment

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 unit research activity data. Combined with strategic indicators maintained by the institution on teaching, student outcomes, and service, Academic Analytics data and tools contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the strengths, vulnerabilities, and opportunities present in an academic unit.

Customize a Program Review to Focus on a Discipline's Most Relevant Research Activity

Academic Analytics enables units to establish the most appropriate comparative context. Units can be benchmarked within the discipline relative to tailored peer groups, Carnegie classifications, or nationally. Additionally, the capacity to extend time windows ensures 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.

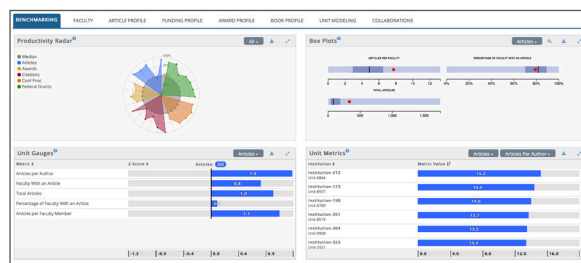
Use external and internal views of unit research activity for a thorough assessment.



Assess Program-Level Research Activity Against Disciplinary Peers

Academic Analytics data and tools identify key dimensions of scholarly accomplishment and point 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 could their level of recognition be increased? Are there potential collaborative opportunities – on campus and around the nation – that can be made more visible to researchers? Are the strengths of your faculty being fully utilized and are there opportunities for growth? How do your faculty's funding and publication records compare to peers in similar programs?

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



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