

Assessment Grant Initiative Implementation Report

Awardees of all grants are asked to share their assessment projects/pilots and results with the greater UMaine community. Therefore, we are asking awardees to submit a brief summary of their findings to OIRA the year following their award. Please complete the form below and give a summary of your findings. This summary should be less than 500 words.

If you were funded for an assessment project, please report on the results of the project, any challenges encountered during implementation, and future plans.

If you were funded for a Brightspace course pilot, please reflect upon the experience, including the benefits and challenges of implementation, and future plans for rolling out your use of the learning outcomes tools. These summaries will be posted on the OIRA website.

Title of Proposal: Developing a Novel Tool to Centralize, Visualize, and Track EES Program Assessment

Department or Program: Ecology and Environmental Sciences

Faculty Member(s) or Staff Member(s): Kate Ruskin and Branden Kuusela

Academic Rank or Title: Lecturer and graduate assistant, respectively

Email Address and Campus Phone Number: Lecturer and graduate assistant, respectively

Project Summary (500 words or less):

With support from the OIRA mini grant, EES created a new tool for its program assessment. We have previously asked instructors to record assessment outcomes in a Google sheet, but we sought to streamline this process and add new tools-- particularly visualizations of changes in student achievement across classes and through time. Led by a graduate student, we created a new standalone website application using R Markdown. This tool leverages a graphical user interface to make entering assessment outcomes easier for instructors. In addition, the app automatically creates graph that summarize the assessment results, such as capstone level achievement, through different class years. The instructor's response has been positive so far; instructors appreciate seeing how their assessment data fits into and essential for the larger EES assessment effort. The challenge remains that submitting assessment data is an 'add on' for instructors who are already spread thin. We piloted use of the app in AY 2021-2022, and we will continue using it in AY 2022-2023.

Signature of Applicant:

Date: