

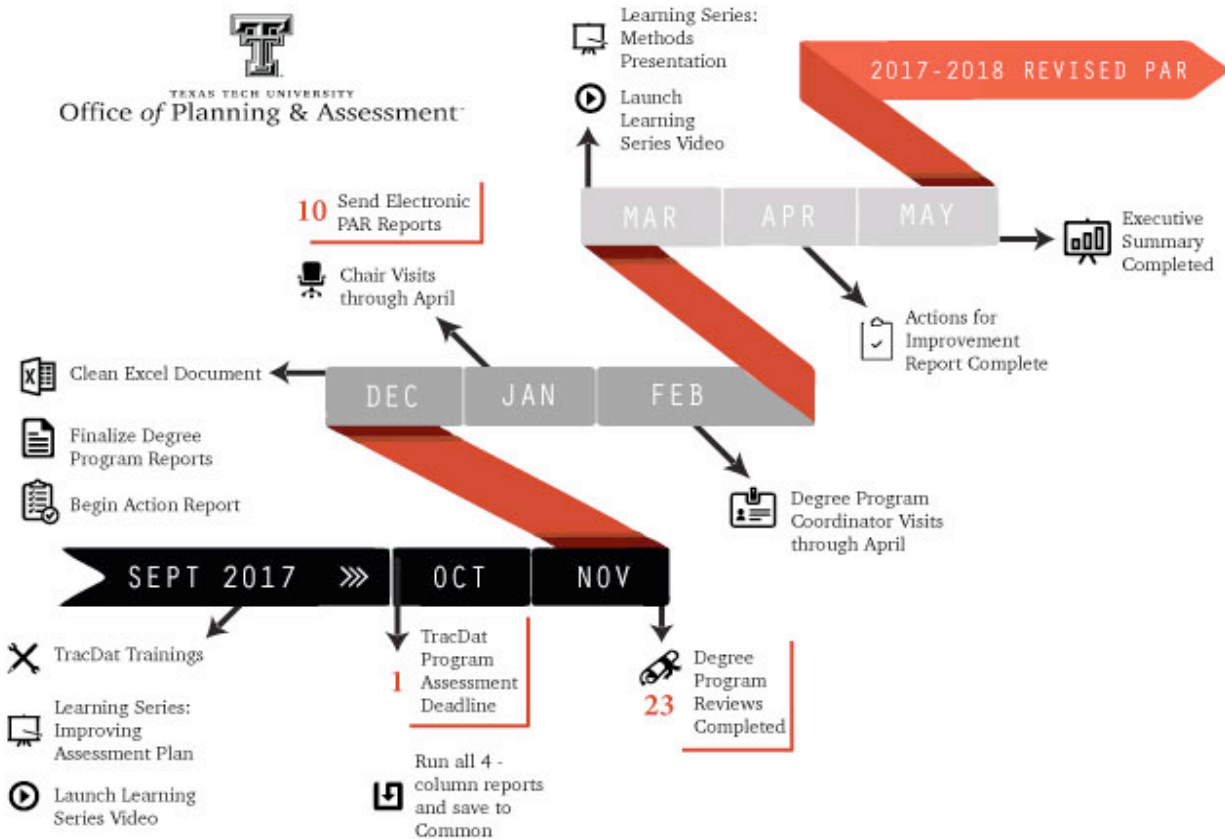


TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

Office of Planning & Assessment

Institutional Effectiveness Weekly Report *Special Report on 17-18 Revised PAR Process* May 12, 2017

The Office of Planning and Assessment reports its weekly activities and contributions toward Texas Tech University's institutional effectiveness efforts and departmental objectives.



On Thursday, May 4, the OPA staff met to discuss changes to the 17-18 PAR process. This document provides a brief overview of decisions that resulted from this meeting.

Why change the PAR process?

The draft graphic represented on page 1 provides an overview of how OPA expects to strengthen its existing PAR process for the 17-18 academic year. Our office fully anticipates the PAR process to be iterative every year. As a leading IE office, we **should** identify new processes that culminate in improvement.

The changes depicted in the graphic are largely responsive to the needs of colleges. In particular, we have revised our PAR process to better align with the needs of the College of Arts & Sciences, Texas Tech's largest-enrollment college. By re-considering our own process, we can better align with how A&S internally reviews its own degree programs.

What are the most significant changes to the PAR process?

First, and most notably, the PAR process reverts to the university's long-standing October 1 deadline for reporting assessment results, actions for improvement, and follow-ups. This deadline is significantly more convenient for faculty schedules, and allows time for faculty reflection of assessment data.

Second, the revised PAR process involves all staff members, with the exception of the staff's administrative assistant. All staff members will be reviewing and evaluating degree program assessment reports, whereas this task was previously assigned to 1-2 staff members.

Third, the revised PAR process specifically tailors OPA Learning Series presentations to the PAR. Faculty and staff can participate in developmental opportunities that are tied directly to the PAR rubric. For example, one Learning Series presentation is strategically focused on improving a department's assessment plan, whereas the second Learning Series presentation is grounded on the use of discipline-specific assessment methods.

Next, due to a re-alignment of the office's internal staff review and to be more cognizant of colleges' internal reviews, Chair Visits and Degree Program Coordinator visits will begin in January, rather than in September. Again, because the office is reverting to its October 1 deadline, it would not be prudent to begin these visits before the deadline has surpassed.

Lastly, the revised PAR process will produce two significant reports. We will complete a university-wide Actions for Improvement report in April 2018 and an Executive Summary in May 2018. Both of these reports will be included in the university's Fifth Year Interim Report.