**What is the APT Alternative?**

The APT Alternative offers programs an opportunity to shift the focus from the regular assessment reporting to work on one of the following:

* strengthening the program’s assessment processes to increase the quality and usefulness of assessment data (assessment improvement track), or
* using assessment results to make program-level curricular changes intended to improve student learning (learning improvement track).

Programs that elect to participate in the APT Alternative will submit a one-page summary document **on June 1st** that details the program’s plans to make substantial changes to their assessment processes/curriculum ***or*** describes changes that were implemented during the 2019-20 academic year.

**What constitutes a good APT Alternative project?**

Examples of APT Alternative ***assessment* *improvement projects*** include, overhauling a program’s student learning objectives (SLOs), investigating the alignment between curricular experiences and program SLOs, developing a new measure, heavily revising an existing measure, collecting reliability/validity information for existing measures, or making substantial changes to any other aspect of the program’s assessment process.

In contrast, all APT Alternative ***learning improvement projects*** will involve the following: targeting an SLO in need of improvement (based on previous assessment results and/or faculty consensus), investigating the program’s current curricular efforts related to the targeted SLO, proposing curricular/pedagogical modifications designed to increase student learning with respect to the targeted SLO, and (potentially) implementing these curricular/pedagogical modifications (depending on the project timeline).

**What programs are eligible to participate in the APT Alternative?**

Programs that have earned exemplary status for the past two years are eligible for the APT Alternative. Additionally, programs that submitted an alternative APT in 2017-18, then earned exemplary status in 2018-2019 are eligible. Programs are not allowed to submit an alternative APT two years in a row.

**I am interested in participating in the APT Alternative. What now?**

Programs that elect to participate in the APT Alternative may begin planning immediately. Program Assessment Support Services (PASS) does not need to be notified of your decision to submit an APT Alternative, but are available for regular consultation.

**What happens after my program submits the APT Alternative?**

The expectation is that programs will implement any changes discussed in their APT Alternative documents by the end of the 2020-21 academic year. Programs will then submit a regular APT on June 1, 2021. In this APT, programs should reflect on the impacts of any assessment changes they made (assessment improvement track) or report whether the curricular modifications they implemented improved student learning (learning improvement track).