

NRC Update

By Ellen Gainor

As you may have heard, the NRC is anticipating an early fall release of the data from the assessment of research doctoral programs. Institutions will know about 36 hours in advance that the report is being released, but no institution will get the release in advance of the general public. The report will be received by the "institutional coordinator" and each institution will then disseminate its data internally. The report will include some information for the general public on how to interpret the report, but much of what is released, it appears, will need some explanation in order to be accessible even to an audience of students, faculty, and administrators. The NRC also plans to make available around Aug. 15 an updated methodology report. It appears that we can anticipate that the ratings will point towards clusters of programs, rather than individual rankings in a hierarchy, once we get beyond the programs rated most highly.