WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

2018-2019 University Student Learning Outcomes Report

Executive Summary

During the 2018-2019 academic year (AY), the five Washburn University (Washburn) Student Learning Outcomes (USLOs) consisted of Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT), Communication (COM), Global Citizenship, Ethics and Diversity (GED), Information Literacy and Technology (ILT), and Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning (QSR). Student scores were rated on a scale of 0 = Not Evaluated, 1 = Beginning, 2 = Developing, 3 = Target, or 4 = Advanced.

The total number of overall student USLO ratings for Summer 2018 was 1,145 scores, Fall 2018 had a total of 8,112, and Spring 2019 had a total of 6,983, for an AY 2018-2019 total of 16,240 overall USLO student ratings. When excluding ratings of 0 = Not Evaluated and those with no ratings, the number of overall student USLO ratings decreased by 0.9%. The remainder of the report was based off the 14,721 valid overall student USLO ratings.

The number of subjects, courses, and sections that were collected during AY 2018-2019 were 34, 141, and 524, respectively; 25 subjects, 48 courses, and 69 sections in Summer 2018; 31 subjects, 108 courses, and 372 sections in Fall 2018; and 32 subjects, 112 courses, and 347 sections in Spring 2019.

By the five USLOs, for the 2018-2019 AY, the number of subjects, courses, sections, and overall student USLO ratings (with 0 = Not Evaluated and missing ratings removed) were:

- CCT = 17 subjects, 49 courses, 145 sections, 3,848 overall student USLO ratings
- COM = 4 subjects, 13 courses, 96 sections, 2,604 overall student USLO ratings
- GED = 18 subjects, 43 courses, 102 sections, 2,895 overall student USLO ratings
- ILT = 5 subjects, 6 courses, 78 sections, 1,516 overall student USLO ratings
- QSR = 9 subjects, 31 courses, 108 sections, 3,858 overall student USLO ratings

For the 2018-2019 AY, COM had the highest percent of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance level with 86.6%, followed by ILT at 85.7%, GED at 77.6%, and QSR at 75.7%. CCT had the lowest percent of student summary scores at Target/Advanced with 72.8%. In examining scores by terms, ILT had the highest scores in Summer 2018 (100.0%). COM yielded the highest percentage of Target or Advanced performance levels Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 (85.5%, and 86.0%, respectively).

ILT yielded the highest mean scores for overall student USLO ratings for each term and overall: Summer 2018 ($\overline{x}$ = 3.93), Fall 2018 ($\overline{x}$ = 3.47), Spring 2019 ($\overline{x}$ = 3.41), AY 2018-2019 ($\overline{x}$ = 3.47). The median for each term for ILT was 4.00 or Advanced.

For USLO ratings by subject, the percent of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels were highest in Communication Studies courses for CCT and COM (100.0% and 93.1%, respectively). For GED, the highest ratings were in Foreign Languages (100.0%). For the ILT USLO, Mass Media courses received the highest ratings (93.2%). The QSR overall student USLO ratings were highest in Geology courses with 87.2% scoring at the Target or Advanced performance levels.

Introduction

The five Washburn University Course-Embedded Student Learning Outcomes (USLOs) consist of Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT), Communication (COM), Global Citizenship, Ethics and Diversity (GED), Information Literacy and Technology (ILT), and Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning (QSR). General education course contain student learning objectives tailored to the curriculum. These objectives vary in number for each course from one to nine. Student performance in general education courses is rated on the student learning objectives, on a scale of 0 = Not Evaluated, 1 = Beginning, 2 = Developing, 3 = Target, and 4 = Advanced. Additionally, all scoring includes an overall student USLO rating score that represents the overall score of student performance in relation to the course USLO.

This report contains the results of USLO scores from the 2018-2019 academic year (AY) which consisted of the terms Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019. In most reporting of results, the scoring of 0 = Not Evaluated has been removed from analysis. In addition, ratings of 3 = Target and 4 = Advanced performance levels are highlighted in the report; these ratings are considered proficient in the USLO.

Overall Student USLO Ratings

The total number of cases in the AY 2018-2019 data was 16,240; 1,145 scores in Summer 2018, 8,112 in Fall 2018, and 6,983 in Spring 2019. However, 1,519 cases were missing student USLO ratings or had an overall student USLO rating of zero. Valid ratings for Summer 2018 were 1,037, Fall 2018 were 7,318, and Spring 2019 were 6,366, for an AY 2018-2019 total of 14,721 valid overall student USLO ratings. Approximately 0.9% of the overall student USLO ratings submitted AY 2018-2019 were missing or rated 0 = Not Evaluated (n = 1,519). Overall student USLO ratings of 0 = Not Evaluated and missing scores were removed from the data for analysis for the remainder of this report.

The number of valid overall student USLO ratings submitted by Washburn faculty represented in the analyses throughout this report were 1,037 for Summer 2018, 7,318 for Fall 2018, and 6,366 for Spring 2019 (see Table 1). The most overall student USLO ratings were entered by faculty for courses in Fall 2018 (49.7%) and this was a consistent trend across most of the USLO Attributes; the exception was GED where 53.7% scores were entered by faculty in Spring 2019.

Table 1. Number and Percentage of Overall Student USLO Ratings by USLO Attribute and Term

USLO Attribute	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	AY 2018-2019
CCT	262 (6.8%)	1,992 (51.8%)	1,594 (41.4%)	3,848 (100%)
COM	283 (10.9%)	1,230 (47.2%)	1,091 (41.9%)	2,604 (100%)
GED	194 (6.7%)	1,146 (39.6%)	1,555 (53.7%)	2,895 (100%)
ILT	68 (4.5%)	975 (64.3%)	473 (31.2%)	1,516 (100%)
QSR	230 (6.0%)	1,975 (51.2%)	1,653 (42.8%)	3,858 (100%)
Total	1,037 (7.0%)	7,318 (49.7%)	6,366 (43.2%)	14,721 (100%)

Number of Sections, Courses, and Subjects

The five USLOs were assessed during Summer 2018 in 69 sections of 48 general education courses in 25 subjects. In Fall 2018, there were 372 sections of 108 general education courses in 31 subjects assessed. In Spring 2019, 347 sections of 112 general education courses in 32 subjects were assessed. Overall the number of sections was 524 for 141 general education courses in 34 subjects. See Table 2 for subjects, courses, and sections by USLO Attribute and Term.

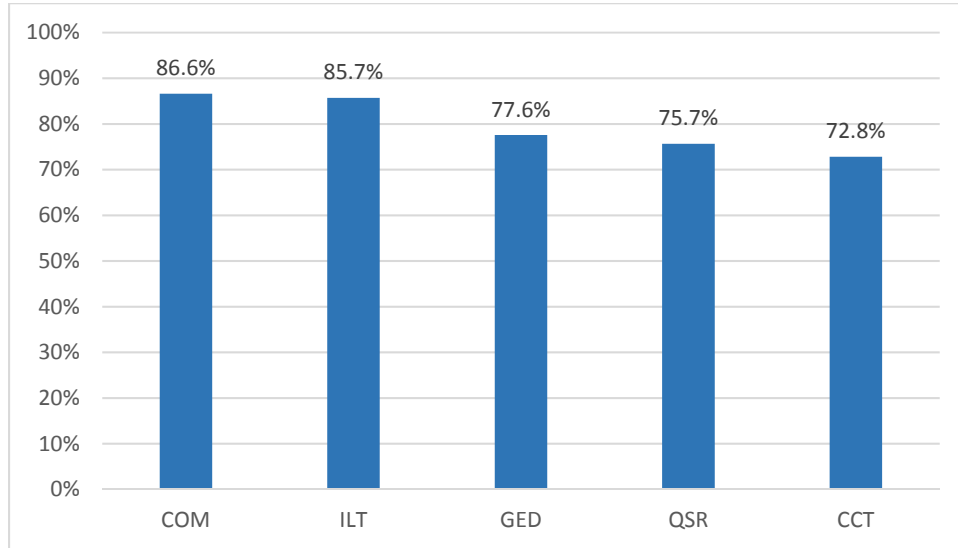Table 2. Number of Subjects, Courses, and Sections by USLO Attribute and Term

USLO Attribute	Subjects	Courses	Sections
Summer 2018			
CCT	9	14	18
COM	2	6	20
GED	10	11	12
ILT	3	3	4
QSR	7	14	15
Total	**25**	**48**	**69**
Fall 2018			
CCT	17	41	97
COM	4	10	70
GED	13	26	54
ILT	4	4	65
QSR	9	27	86
Total	**31**	**108**	**372**
Spring 2019			
CCT	15	36	99
COM	4	13	68
GED	17	33	77
ILT	4	5	28
QSR	9	26	80
Total	**32**	**112**	**347**
AY 2018-2019			
CCT	17	49	145
COM	4	13	96
GED	18	43	102
ILT	5	6	78
QSR	9	31	108
Total	**34**	**141**	**524**

The USLOs assessed in the most sections and courses were CCT, which was assessed by 145 sections and 49 courses in 17 subjects. This was followed by QSR which was assessed in 108 sections and 31 courses in 9 subjects, and GED, assessed in 102 sections and 43 courses in 18 subjects. COM was assessed in 96 sections and 13 courses in 4 subjects. During AY 2018-2019, the ILT USLO was assessed in the fewest sections and the fewest courses at a total of 78 sections and 6 courses in 5 subjects.

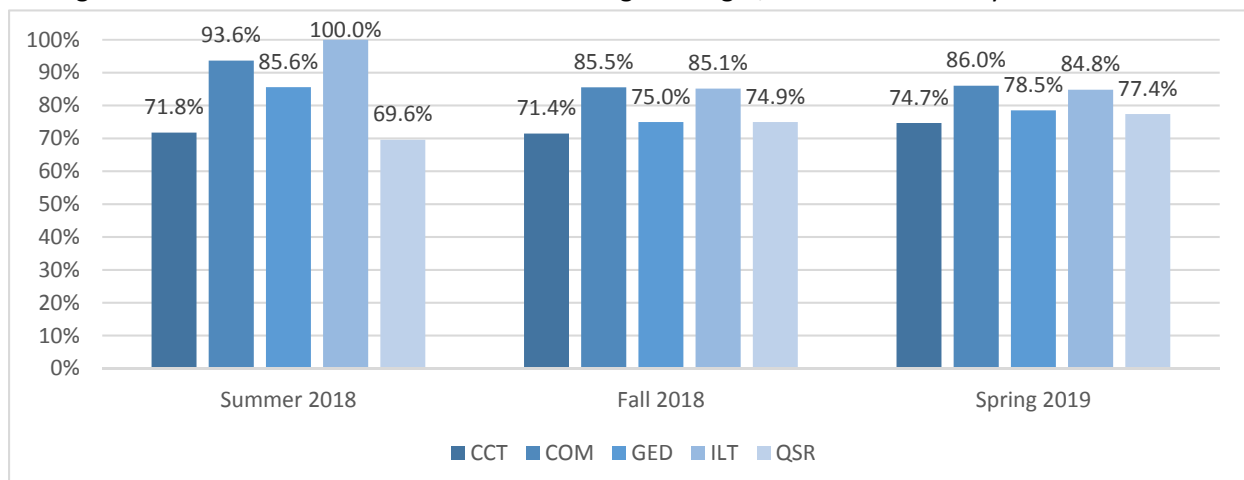## Percent of Student Summary Scores by Performance Levels and USLO

The USLO with the highest percentage of overall student ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels was COM at 86.6%. The second highest percentage was ILT with 85.7% of scores at Target or Advanced. The GED and QSR USLO percentages were 77.6%% and 75.7%, respectively. CCT had the lowest percent (72.8%) of the five USLOs at the Target or Advanced performance levels; see Figure 1.

Figure 1. Percent of Overall Student USLO Ratings at Target/Advanced Levels by USLO

For Summer 2018, ILT had the highest percentage of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels (100.0%), followed by COM with 93.6%. GED was the third highest at 85.6%. The two lowest Target or Advanced performance levels in Summer 2018 were for CCT (71.8%) and QSR (69.6%). In Fall 2018, again COM had the highest performance level of Target or Advanced overall student ULSO ratings at 85.5%, with ILT at a very similar level (85.1%). GED was third highest at 75.0% and QSR had similar ratings at 74.9%. CCT had the lowest percentage at 71.4%. For Spring 2019, the highest percentage was again for the COM USLO at 86.0%. ILT was the second highest at 84.8%. The GED performance level was 78.5% and QSR was 77.4%. CCT had the lowest overall student USLO ratings for Spring 2019 at 74.7%. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Percent of Overall Student USLO Ratings at Target/Advanced Levels by USLO and Term

Next, the four USLO performance levels, 1 = Beginning, 2 = Developing, 3 = Target and 4 = Advanced, were analyzed, and the mean, median, and standard deviation was generated by attribute and term, see Table 3. The highest mean scores for each term and AY were from ILT. The mean score for Summer 2018 scores for ILT were the highest of all USLO scores at 3.93. The ILT mean scores were slightly lower in Fall 2018 ($\bar{x} = 3.47$) and similarly 3.41 for Spring 2019, and 3.47 for the AY. The median for each term for ILT was 4.00. GED also yielded a 4.00 median for Summer 2018. COM had the second highest mean scores at 3.40 in Summer 2018, 3.29 in Spring 2019 and 3.22 in Fall 2018, and 3.27 for the AY. The USLO GED had the third highest mean score in Summer 2018 with 3.32, and Fall 2018 ($\bar{x} = 3.03$), Spring 2019 ($\bar{x} = 3.11$) and the AY ($\bar{x} = 3.10$). The mean score for CCT was the second lowest score in Summer 2018 ($\bar{x} = 2.94$); however, CCT had the lowest mean scores in Fall 2018 ($\bar{x} = 2.93$) Spring 2019, and for the AY ($\bar{x} = 2.96$). The mean score for QSR was the lowest score in Summer 2018 ($\bar{x} = 2.89$), and was the second lowest in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 ($\bar{x}s = 3.02$), and for the AY ($\bar{x} = 3.01$) with scores near the Target performance level.

Table 3. Mean and Standard Deviation of Overall Student USLO Ratings by USLO Attribute and Term

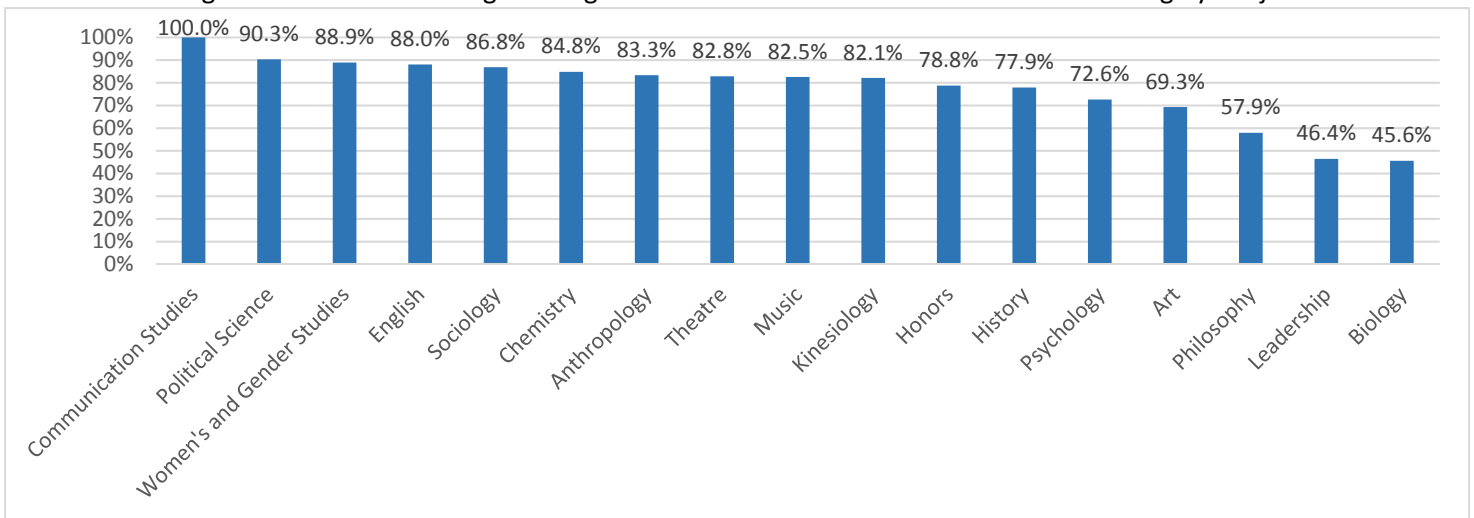| USLO Attribute	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Total
Summer 2018				
CCT	2.94	3.00	0.91	262
COM	3.40	3.00	0.66	283
GED	3.32	4.00	0.86	194
ILT	3.93	4.00	0.26	68
QSR	2.89	3.00	0.85	230
Total	3.19	3.00	0.85	1,037
Fall 2018				
CCT	2.93	3.00	0.99	1,992
COM	3.22	3.00	0.73	1,230
GED	3.03	3.00	0.91	1,146
ILT	3.47	4.00	0.83	975
QSR	3.02	3.00	0.88	1,975
Total	3.09	3.00	0.91	7,318
Spring 2019				
CCT	3.00	3.00	0.95	1,594
COM	3.29	3.00	0.76	1,091
GED	3.11	3.00	0.87	1,555
ILT	3.41	4.00	0.93	473
QSR	3.02	3.00	0.85	1,653
Total	3.11	3.00	0.88	6,366
AY 2018-2019				
CCT	2.96	3.00	0.97	3,848
COM	3.27	3.00	0.74	2,604
GED	3.10	3.00	0.89	2,895
ILT	3.47	4.00	0.85	1,516
QSR	3.01	3.00	0.87	3,858
Total	3.11	3.00	0.89	14,721

Overall Student USLO Ratings by Subject

The overall student USLO ratings within each USLO were disaggregated by the subject area in which the USLO scores were assessed and scored. The percent of scores classified at the Target or Advanced performance levels for the 2018-2019 AY were examined for patterns in the percentage trends.

Critical and Creative Thinking by Subject

The percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for CCT were highest for courses in the subject areas of Communication Studies (100.0%) and Political Science (90.3%). Women's and Gender Studies, English, Sociology, Chemistry, Anthropology, Theatre, Music, and Kinesiology had 90-80% of Target or Advanced ratings in CCT. The courses assessing CCT at 80-70% Target or Advanced ratings were Honors, History, and Psychology. The subjects with the lowest percent of student ratings at Target or Advanced were Art, Philosophy, Leadership and Biology. See Figure 3.
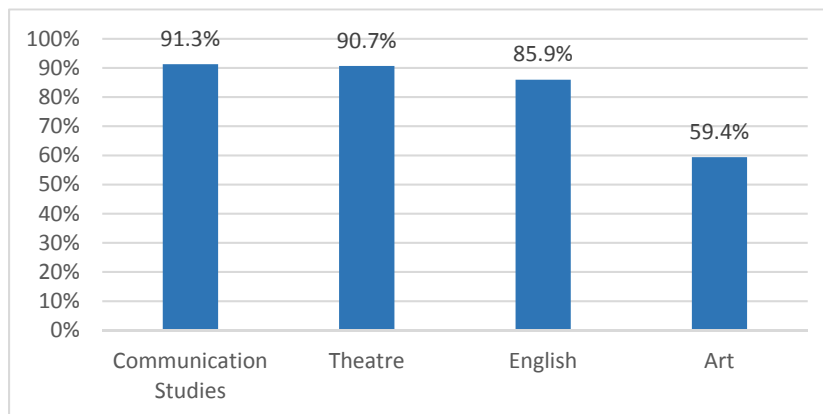
Figure 3. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Critical and Creative Thinking by Subject

Communication by Subject

Four subjects assessed COM during the 2018-2019 AY. The percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for COM ranged from about 90% to 60%. Communication Studies had the highest percent (91.3%), followed by Theatre (90.7%), English (85.9%), and Art (59.4%). See Figure 4.
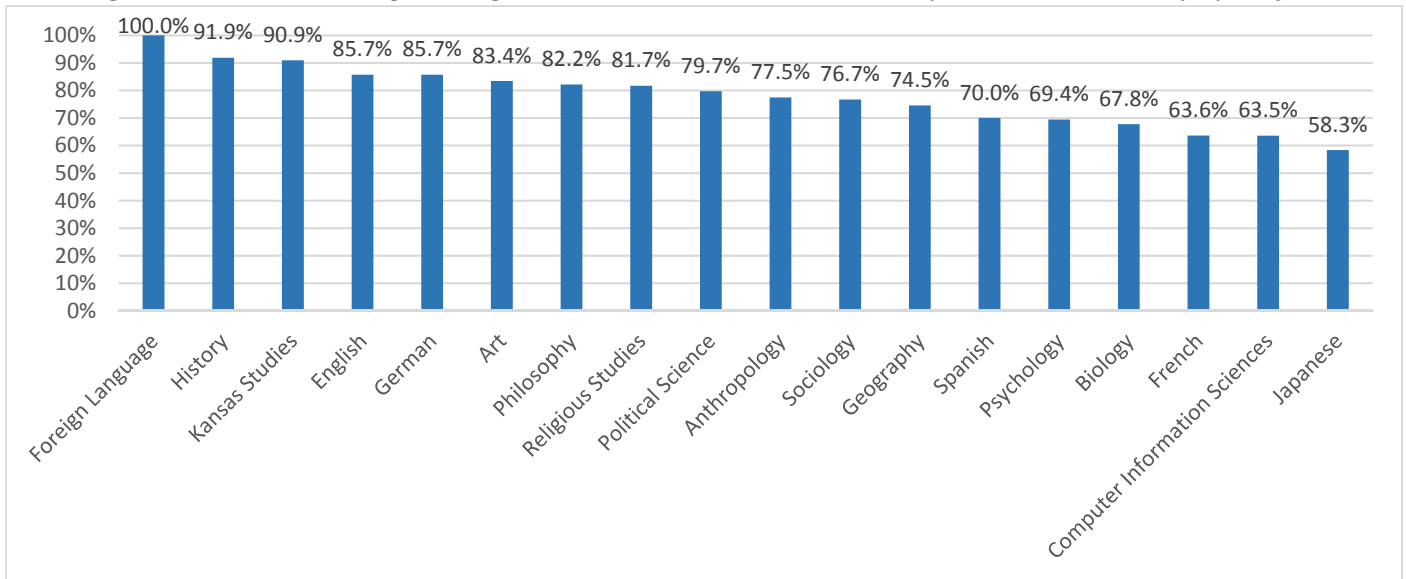
Figure 4. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Communication by Subject

Global Citizenship, Ethics, and Diversity by Subject

The GED student USLO ratings at Target or Advanced were highest in the subjects of Foreign Languages, History and Kansas Studies (100.0%, 91.9%, and 90.9%, respectively). English and German were rated similarly at 85.7%. The following subjects were rated between 85-70%: Art, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, and Spanish. Psychology, Biology, French, and Computer Information Sciences were rated between 70-60%. The subjects of Japanese was rated at a Target or Advanced percentage less than 60%. See Figure 5.
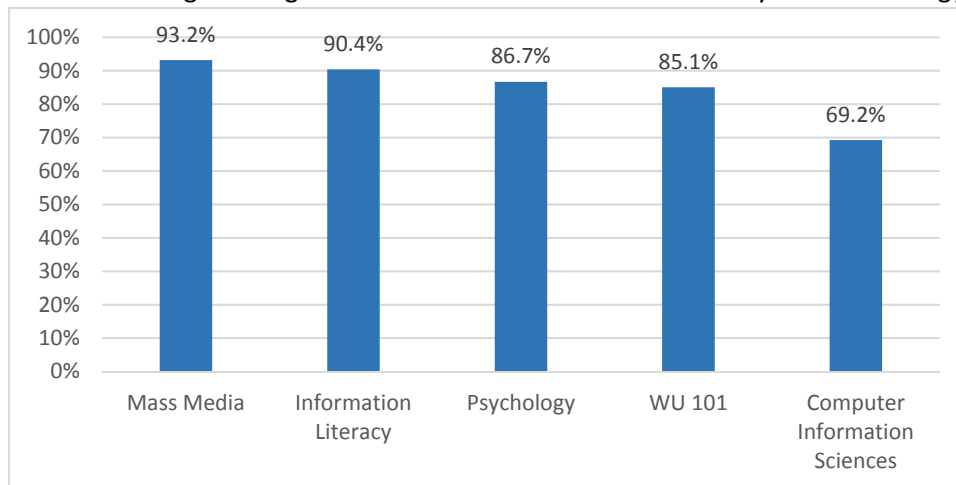
Figure 5. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Global Citizenship, Ethics and Diversity by Subject

Information Literacy and Technology by Subject

The ILT courses assessed with this USLO spanned across five subjects. Mass Media and Information Literacy were rated the highest at 93.2% and 90.4%, respectively. Psychology and WU 101 were rated at 86.7% and 85.1%. Computer Information Sciences received performance level scoring of Target or Advanced for 69.2% of student ratings. See Figure 6.
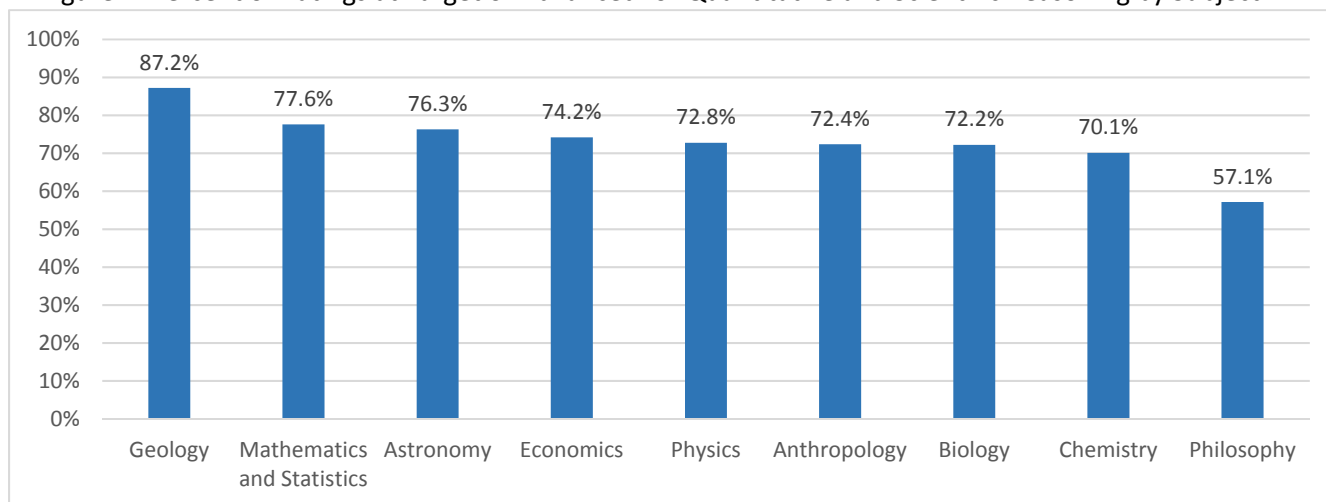
Figure 6. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Information Literacy and Technology by Subject

Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning by Subject

The percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for QSR were highest for courses the subject area of Geology (87.2%). Mathematics and Statistics, Astronomy, Economics, Physics, Anthropology, Biology, and Chemistry were also rated fairly highly at 80-70%. Philosophy received ratings at 57.1%. See Figure 7.

Figure 7. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning by Subject

Comparison to Previous Year's Results

In comparing the 2018-2019 USLO results with those from 2017-2018, there were several interesting changes to note.

QSR gained in the number of overall student USLO ratings that were collected, from 3,689 in 2017-2018 to 3,858 in 2018-2019. The four other USLOs decreased in number: CCT was 3,848 from 4,551, COM 2,604 from 3,054, GED was 2,895 from 3,201, and ILT was 1,516 from 1,712. Overall, there were less overall student USLO rating collected this AY, from 16,207 to 14,721. This difference appears to be a decrease in the number of subjects and sections from which USLOs were collected.
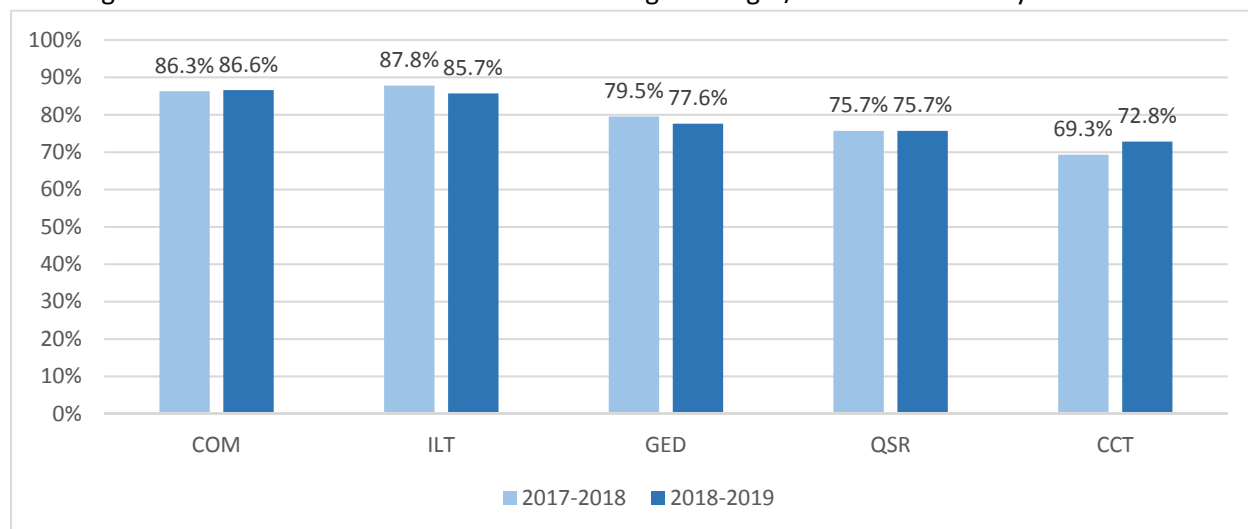
The highest mean scores for each term and overall AY scores were from ILT in 2017-2018 and in 2018-2019. Although ILT continues to be offered in the smallest number of subjects, courses, and sections, and have the smallest number of overall student USLO ratings, the mean scores continue to be higher than the other four USLOs.

The highest percentage of overall student ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels was COM at 86.6% in 2018-2019, although it was ILT at 87.8% in 2017-2018. The reverse was also true for the second highest percentage. ILT was the second highest in 2018-2019 with 85.7% of scores at Target or Advanced, although in 2017-2018, ILT was highest at 87.8%. The GED and QSR USLO percentages remained third and four highest, and CCT was the lowest percent; however, CCT gained from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 (69.3% to 72.8%). See Figure 8 on the following page.

The differences in USLO Target/Advanced scores were examined by AY for statistical significance. The mean score of overall USLO Target/Advanced scores in AY 2018-2019 were 3.50 and in AY 2017-2018

were 3.49. Using independent samples *t*-tests of statistical independence, it was found that differences in USLOs by AY were not statistically significant, t (24,147) = -1.08, p = .280.

Figure 8. Percent of Overall Student USLO Ratings at Target/Advanced Levels by USLO and AY

Communication Studies continued to be the subject area with the highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for CCT and for COM. However, Foreign Language became the subject area with highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for GED in 2018-2019; in 2017-2018 the highest was English. Mass Media became the subject area with the highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for ILT in 2018-2019, whereas in 2017-2018 the highest was Information Literacy. Geology was again the subject area with the highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for QSR.

Overall Observations and Limitations

Approximately half of the overall student USLO ratings are collected in Fall 2018 (n = 7,318, 49.7%) out of an AY 2018-2019 total of 14,721 overall USLO student ratings. Spring 2019 ratings were 43.2% and Summer 2018 were 7.0%. Therefore, the findings in this report will be weighted toward Fall 2018 scores.

The USLOs CCT and QSR were assessed in the most subjects, courses, and sections, while GED and COM were not assessed as much, and ILT was the least assessed. However, COM and ILT were the top two USLOs rated at the Target or Advanced performance levels with COM having the highest percentage overall for the AY and for each term (86.6%). Additionally, when assessing the four USLO performance levels of overall USLO student ratings, COM and ILT had the largest mean and median scores of all five USLOs. CCT and COM yielded the highest performance levels at Target and Advanced in the subject of Communication Studies (100.0% and 91.3%, respectively).

There were 327 cases missing overall student USLO ratings. This is much improved from the previous AY report in 2017-18 where 1,697 cases were missing overall student USLO ratings. After removing all missing overall student USLO ratings and ratings of 0 = Not Evaluated, the number of valid cases was reduced by 9.4%, from 16,240 to 14,721. This is also much improved from the decrease of 13.5% in the AY 2017-18 report.