



2019-2020 University Student Learning Outcomes Report

Executive Summary

During the 2019-2020 academic year (AY 2020), 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 performance was 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 2019 was 981, Fall 2019 had a total of 8,619, and Spring 2020 had a total of 6,231, for an AY 2020 total of 15,831 overall USLO student ratings. When excluding ratings of 0 = Not Evaluated and those with no ratings, the number of overall student USLO ratings decreased to 13,543. The remainder of the report was based off the 13,543 valid overall student USLO ratings.

The number of subjects, courses, and sections that were collected during AY 2020 were 32, 128, and 475, respectively; 29 subjects, 45 courses, and 66 sections in Summer 2019; 46 subjects, 106 courses, and 382 sections in Fall 2019; and 46 subjects, 97 courses, and 279 sections in Spring 2020.

By the five USLOs in AY 2020, the number of subjects, courses, sections, and overall student USLO ratings (with 0 = Not Evaluated and missing ratings removed) were:

- CCT = 14 subjects, 48 courses, 135 sections, 3,508 overall student USLO ratings
- COM = 4 subjects, 13 courses, 89 sections, 2,748 overall student USLO ratings
- GED = 16 subjects, 33 courses, 90 sections, 2,862 overall student USLO ratings
- ILT = 5 subjects, 6 courses, 77 sections, 1,565 overall student USLO ratings
- QSR = 9 subjects, 29 courses, 89 sections, 2,860 overall student USLO ratings

For AY 2020, ILT had the highest percent of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance level with 88.9%, followed by COM at 87.4%, GED at 79.5%, and QSR at 79.1%. CCT had the lowest percent of student summary ratings at Target/Advanced with 75.9%. In examining ratings by terms, ILT had the highest percentage of Target or Advanced performance levels in Summer 2019 (95.0%), Fall 2019 (89.9%), and Spring 2020 (85.6%).

ILT yielded the highest mean scores for overall student USLO ratings for each term and overall on a scale from 1 = Beginning, 2 = Developing, 3 = Target, and 4 = Advanced: Summer 2019 (\bar{x} = 3.65), Fall 2019 (\bar{x} = 3.48), Spring 2020 (\bar{x} = 3.39), AY 2019-2020 (\bar{x} = 3.46). 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 English courses for CCT (92.1%) and in Communication Studies for COM (90.5%). For GED, the highest ratings were in Foreign Languages (100%). For the ILT USLO, Information Literacy courses received the highest ratings (93.6%). The QSR overall student USLO ratings were highest in Geology courses with 87.4% scoring at the Target or Advanced performance levels.

Introduction

The five University-wide 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 courses 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 that represents the overall student performance in relation to the course USLO.

This report contains the results of USLO ratings from the 2019-2020 academic year (AY 2020) which consisted of the terms Summer 2019, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020. In most reporting of results, 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 2020 data was 15,831; 981 scores in Summer 2019, 8,619 in Fall 2019, and 6,231 in Spring 2020. However, 1,075 cases were missing student USLO ratings or had an overall student USLO rating of zero. Valid ratings for Summer 2019 were 924, Fall 2019 were 7,608, and Spring 2020 were 5,011, for an AY 2020 total of 13,543 valid overall student USLO ratings.

Approximately 7.4% of the overall student USLO ratings submitted AY 2019-2020 were missing or rated 0 = Not Evaluated ($n = 1,075$). Overall student USLO ratings of 0 = Not Evaluated and missing scores were removed from the data for analysis for the remainder of this report. It should be noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent changes to modes of delivery, a small number of Spring 2020 courses did not report USLO scores.

The number of valid overall student USLO ratings submitted by Washburn faculty represented in the analyses throughout this report were 924 for Summer 2019, 7,608 for Fall 2019, and 5,011 for Spring 2020 (see Table 1). The most overall student USLO ratings were entered by faculty for courses in Fall 2019 (56.2%) and this was a consistent trend across most of the USLO Attributes; the exception was GED where 47.5% scores were entered by faculty in Spring 2020.

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

USLO Attribute	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	AY 2020
CCT	224 (6.4%)	1,933 (55.1%)	1,351 (38.5%)	3,508 (100%)
COM	266 (9.7%)	1,580 (57.5%)	902 (32.8%)	2,748 (100%)
GED	182 (6.4%)	1,321 (46.2%)	1,359 (47.5%)	2,862 (100%)
ILT	60 (3.8%)	1,074 (68.6%)	431 (27.5%)	1,565 (100%)
QSR	192 (6.7%)	1,700 (59.4%)	968 (33.8%)	2,860 (100%)
Total	924 (6.8%)	7,608 (56.2%)	5,011 (37.0%)	13,543 (100%)

Number of Sections, Courses, and Subjects

The five USLOs were assessed during Summer 2019 in 66 sections of 45 general education courses in 29 subjects. In Fall 2019, there were 382 sections of 106 general education courses in 46 subjects assessed. In Spring 2020, 279 sections of 97 general education courses in 46 subjects were assessed. Overall the number of sections was 475 for 128 general education courses in 32 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

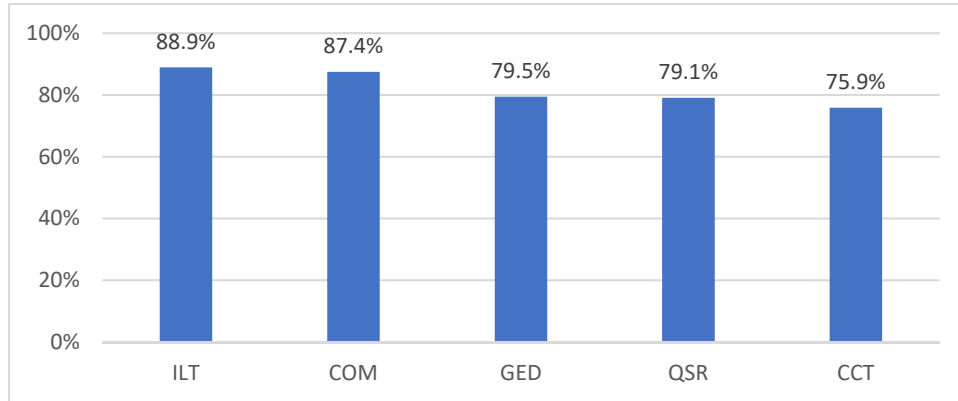
USLO Attribute	Subjects	Courses	Sections
Summer 2019			
CCT	9	13	18
COM	2	6	18
GED	9	12	13
ILT	3	3	5
QSR	6	11	12
Total	29	45	66
Fall 2019			
CCT	14	40	97
COM	4	12	85
GED	14	22	59
ILT	5	6	69
QSR	9	27	76
Total	46	106	382
Spring 2020			
CCT	14	35	81
COM	4	12	59
GED	15	28	71
ILT	4	5	27
QSR	9	18	46
Total	46	97	279
Totals for AY 2020			
CCT	14	48	135
COM	4	13	89
GED	16	33	90
ILT	5	6	77
QSR	9	29	89
Total	32	128	475

The USLOs assessed in the most sections and courses during AY 2020 were CCT, which was assessed in 135 sections and 48 courses in 14 subjects. This was followed by GED which was assessed in 90 sections and 33 courses in 16 subjects. COM and QSR were assessed in 89 sections each; however, QSR was in 29 courses and 9 subjects, while COM was assessed in 13 courses and 4 subjects. During AY 2020, ILT was assessed in the fewest sections (77), courses (6) and subjects (5).

Percent of Student Summary Scores by Performance Levels and USLO

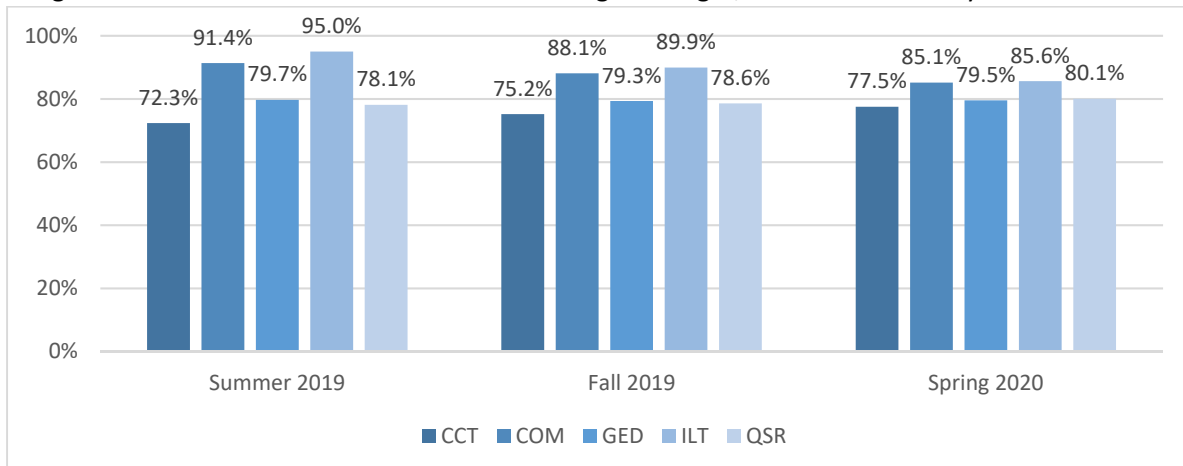
The USLO with the highest percentage of overall student ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels was ILT at 88.9%. The second highest percentage was COM with 87.4% of scores at Target or Advanced. The GED and QSR USLO percentages were 79.5% and 79.1% scores at Target or Advanced, respectively. CCT had the lowest percent (75.9%) 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 2019, ILT had the highest percentage of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels (95.0%), followed by COM with 91.4%. GED was the third highest at 79.7%. The two lowest Target or Advanced performance levels in Summer 2019 were in QSR (78.1%) and CCT (72.3%). In Fall 2019, again, ILT had the highest performance level of Target or Advanced overall student USLO ratings at 89.9%, with COM at a very similar level (88.1%). GED was third highest at 79.3% and QSR had similar ratings at 78.6%. CCT had the lowest percentage at 75.2%. For Spring 2020, the highest percentage of scores at Target or Advanced performance levels was again for the ILT USLO at 85.6%. COM was rated again at a very similar level to ILT, the second highest of the performance levels at 85.1%. The QSR performance level was third at 80.1% and GED was rated similarly at 79.5%. CCT had the lowest overall student USLO ratings for Spring 2020 at 77.5%. 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 2019 scores for ILT were the highest of all USLO scores at 3.65. The ILT mean scores were slightly lower in Fall 2019 ($\bar{x} = 3.48$) and similarly 3.39 for Spring 2020, and 3.46 for the AY. The median for each term for ILT was 4.00, whereas all other USLOs yielded 3.00 medians. COM had the second highest mean scores with 3.33 in Summer 2019, 3.31 in Fall 2019 and 3.29 in Spring 2020, and 3.31 for the AY. The USLO GED had the third highest mean score in Summer 2019 with 3.17, and Fall 2019 ($\bar{x} = 3.13$), Spring 2020 ($\bar{x} = 3.19$) and the AY ($\bar{x} = 3.16$). The mean score for CCT was the lowest score in Summer 2019 ($\bar{x} = 2.94$); however, CCT had the second highest mean scores in Fall 2019 ($\bar{x} = 3.06$), Spring 2020 ($\bar{x} = 3.12$), and for the AY ($\bar{x} = 3.08$). The mean score for QSR was the second lowest score in Summer 2019 ($\bar{x} = 3.11$), and was the lowest in Fall 2019 ($\bar{x} = 3.05$), and Spring 2020 ($\bar{x} = 3.08$), and for the AY ($\bar{x} = 3.07$) 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 2019				
CCT	2.94	3.00	0.99	224
COM	3.33	3.00	0.66	266
GED	3.17	3.00	0.88	182
ILT	3.65	4.00	0.58	60
QSR	3.11	3.00	0.83	192
Total	3.18	3.00	0.84	924
Fall 2019				
CCT	3.06	3.00	0.95	1,933
COM	3.31	3.00	0.72	1,580
GED	3.13	3.00	0.90	1,321
ILT	3.48	4.00	0.78	1,074
QSR	3.05	3.00	0.84	1,700
Total	3.18	3.00	0.86	7,608
Spring 2020				
CCT	3.12	3.00	0.95	1,351
COM	3.29	3.00	0.77	902
GED	3.19	3.00	0.90	1,359
ILT	3.39	4.00	0.93	431
QSR	3.08	3.00	0.83	968
Total	3.19	3.00	0.89	5,011
Totals for AY 2020				
CCT	3.08	3.00	0.95	3,508
COM	3.31	3.00	0.73	2,748
GED	3.16	3.00	0.90	2,862
ILT	3.46	4.00	0.82	1,565
QSR	3.07	3.00	0.84	2,860
Total	3.18	3.00	0.87	13,543

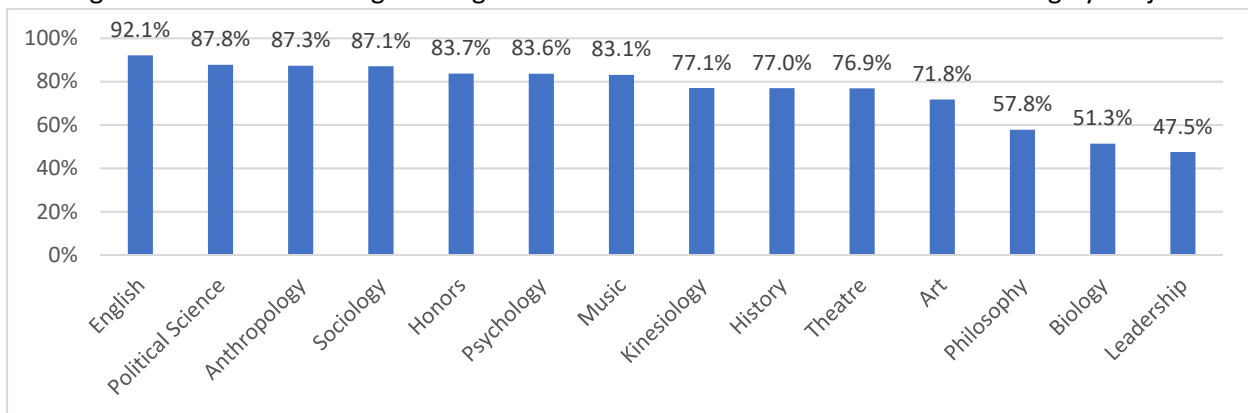
Overall Student USLO Ratings by Subject

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 AY 2020 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 area of English (92.1%). Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Honors, Psychology and Music had 90-80% of Target or Advanced ratings in CCT. The courses assessing CCT at 80-70% Target or Advanced ratings were Kinesiology, History, Theatre and Art. The subjects with the lowest percent of student ratings at Target or Advanced were Philosophy, Biology and Leadership. See Figure 3.

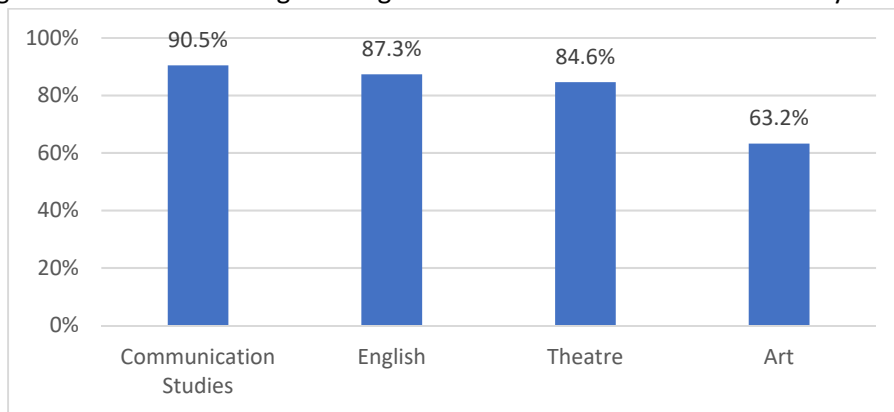
Figure 3. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Critical and Creative Thinking by Subject



Communication by Subject

Four subjects assessed COM during the 2019-2020 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 (90.5%), followed by English (87.3%), Theatre (84.6%), and Art (63.2%). See Figure 4.

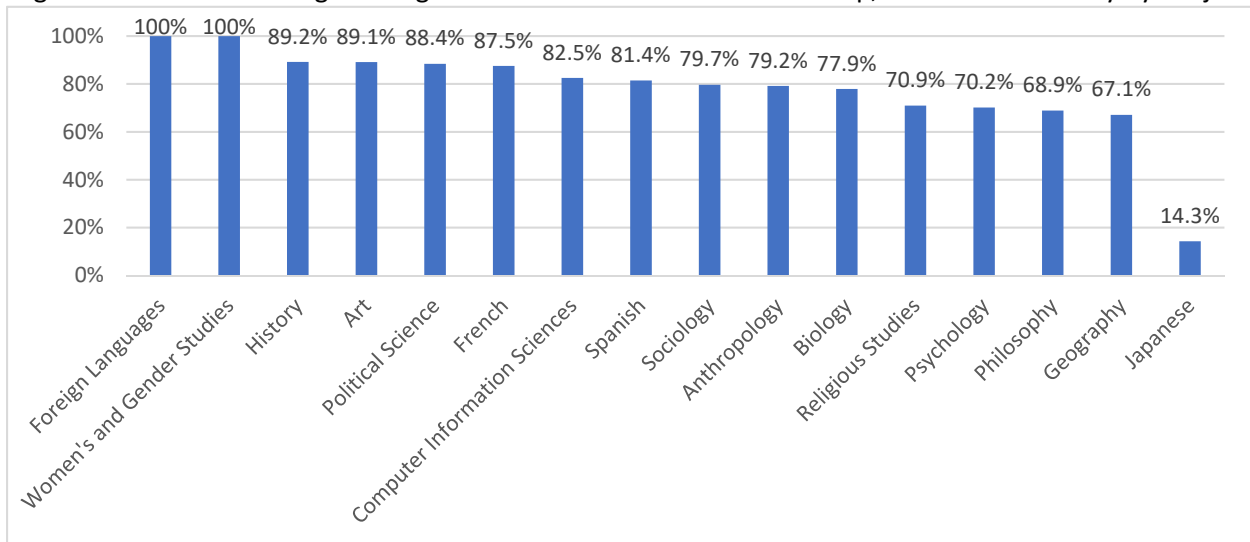
Figure 4. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Communication by Subject



Global Citizenship, Ethics, and Diversity by Subject

The GED student USLO ratings at Target or Advanced were highest in the subjects of Foreign Languages and Women’s and Gender Studies (100%). History, Art, Political Science, French, Computer Information Sciences and Spanish were rated between 90-80%. Sociology, Anthropology, Biology, Religious Studies, Biology, Religious Studies and Psychology were rated between 80-70%. Philosophy, Geography and Japanese were rated less than 70%. See Figure 5.

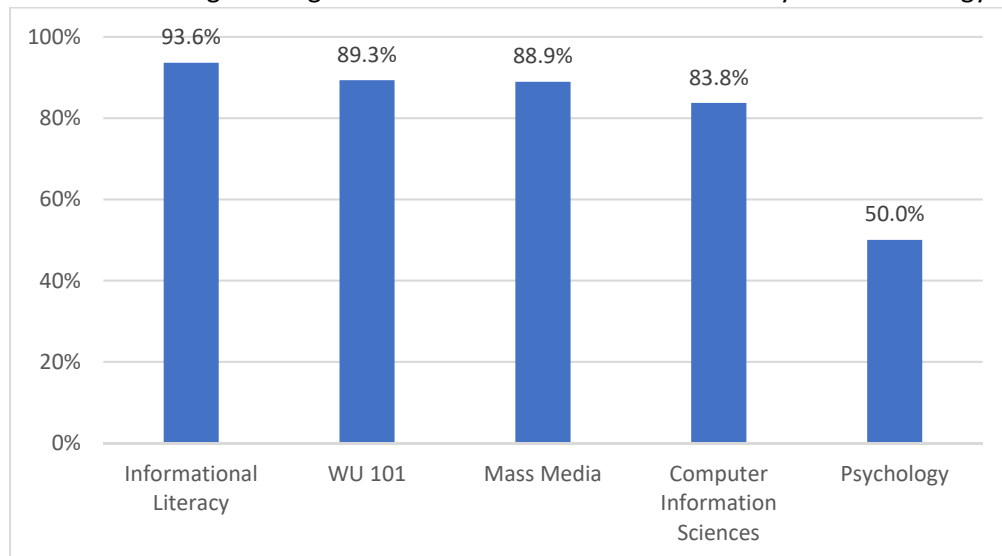
Figure 5. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Global Citizenship, Ethics and Diversity by Subject



Information Literacy and Technology by Subject

The ILT courses assessed with this USLO spanned across five subjects. Information Literacy was rated the highest at 93.6%. WU 101 and Mass Media were rated at 89.3% and 88.9%. Computer Information Sciences was rated at 83.8%. Psychology received the lowest performance level scoring of Target or Advanced for 50.0% of student ratings. See Figure 6.

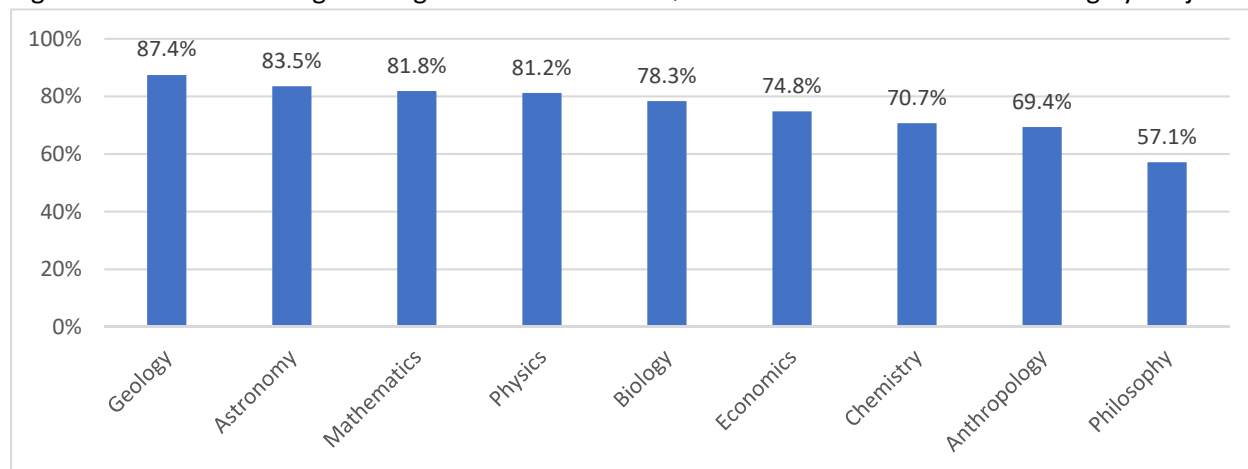
Figure 6. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Information Literacy and Technology by Subject



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 in the subject areas of Geology, Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics (90-80%). Biology, Economics and Chemistry were also rated fairly highly at 80-70%. Anthropology and Philosophy received ratings between 70 and 55%. 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 AY 2020 USLO results with those from the previous two years, there were several areas to note.

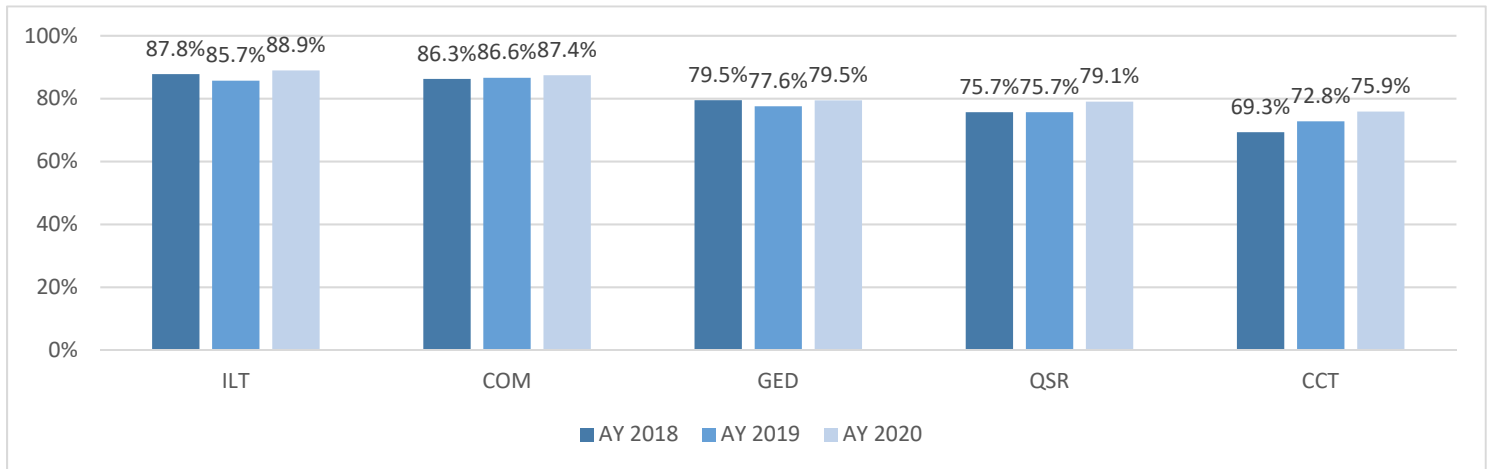
QSR gained in the number of overall student USLO ratings that were collected, from 3,689 in AY 2018 to 3,858 in AY 2019, and then decreased by almost 1,000 ratings to 2,862 in AY 2020. This decrease in AY 2020 is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic as many Chemistry and Mathematics courses were not able to collect information from students to complete the QSR USLO ratings in Spring 2020. For the four other USLOs, there were mostly decreases as well. CCT scores totaled 3,508 in AY 2020, down from 3,848 in AY 2019, and 4,551 in AY 2018, a decrease of almost a thousand scores over two years. GED continued to decrease from 3,201 in AY 2018, 2,862 in AY 2020, 2,895 in AY 2019 and. ILT has slightly decreased over time, from 1,516 from 1,712 in AY 2018 to 1,516 in AY 2019, to slightly higher in AY 2020 with 1,565. The exception was COM. COM increased in AY 2020 from 3,508, going from 2,604 in AY 2019, and 3,054 in AY 2018. Overall, there were less valid overall student USLO rating collected this AY, from 16,207 in AY 2018 to 14,721 in AY 2019, to 13,543 in this AY.

The highest mean scores for each term and overall AY scores were in ILT in AY 2018, AY 2019 and in AY 2020. 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 ILT with 88.9% in AY 2020 and 87.8% in AY 2018, although COM was the highest in AY 2019 at 86.6% and ILT was the second highest with 85.7%. COM was consistently rated second highest at 83.6% and 86.6% for AY 2018 and AY 2019. GED remained the USLO with the third highest ratings across the three years with 79.5%, 77.6%, and 79.5% Target or Advanced ratings, respectively. The QSR percentages increased in AY

2020, from 75.7% in AYs 2018 and 2019 to 79.1% in AY 2020. CCT continued to receive the lowest ratings, although the percentage of Target and Advanced ratings has increased over the years from 69.3% in AY 2018 and 72.8% in AY 2019 to 75.9% in 2020. See Figure 8.

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 COM (Communication Studies did not assess COM this AY). Foreign Language was the subject area with highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for GED in AY 2019 and 2020; in AY 2018 the highest was English. In AY 2020 and AY 2018 the highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for ILT was Information Literacy; Mass Media was the subject area with the highest in AY 2019. Geology was again the subject area with the highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for QSR (for all three years).

Overall Observations and Limitations

More than half of the overall student USLO ratings are collected in Fall 2019 ($n = 7,608$, 56.2%) out of an AY 2020 total of 13,543 overall USLO student ratings. Spring 2020 ratings were 37.0% ($n = 7,608$) and Summer 2019 were 6.8% ($n = 924$). Therefore, the findings in this report were weighted toward Fall 2019 scores.

The USLOs CCT and QSR were assessed in the most sections, courses and subjects, while ILT was assessed in the fewest sections (77), courses (6) and subjects (5). However, ILT was the highest rated at the Target or Advanced performance level overall for the AY 2020 (88.9%). Additionally, when assessing the four USLO performance levels of overall USLO student ratings, ILT had the largest mean and median scores of all five USLOs (3.46 and 4.00, respectively).

There were 1,213 cases missing overall student USLO ratings in AY 2020. This is improved from the AY report in 2018 report where 1,697 cases were missing overall student USLO ratings, but much more than the 327 that were missing in AY 2019. The greater number of missing cases is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic that impacted USLO collection during the Spring 2020 semester. After removing all missing overall student USLO ratings and ratings of 0 = Not Evaluated, the number of valid cases was reduced by 14.5% from 13,543 out of a total of 15,831. The previous year was 9.4%, and the prior year was 13.5%.