WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Course-Embedded University Student Learning Outcomes Report

2021-2022

Executive Summary

During the 2021-22 academic year (AY 2022), two of the five Washburn University Student Learning Outcomes (USLOs), Communication (COM) and Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning (QSR), were assessed. Student performance was rated on a scale of 0 = Not Evaluated, 1 = Beginning, 2 = Developing, 3 = Target, or 4 = Advanced.

The total number of valid overall student COM and QSR USLO ratings for Summer 2021 was 428; Fall 2021 had a total of 2,733, and Spring 2022 had a total of 2,167, for an AY 2022 total of 5,328 overall USLO student ratings.

For the two USLOs in AY 2022, the number of subjects, courses, sections, and overall student USLO ratings (not including 0 = Not Evaluated and missing ratings) were:

- COM = 4 subjects, 13 courses, 91 sections, 2,723 overall student USLO ratings
- QSR = 9 subjects, 30 courses, 113 sections, 2,605 overall student USLO ratings

By term, the number of subjects, courses, and sections that were collected during AY 2022 were 13, 43, and 204, respectively; 8 subjects, 17 courses, and 29 sections in Summer 2021; 13 subjects, 39 courses, and 155 sections in Fall 2021; and 13 subjects, 36 courses, and 142 sections in Spring 2022.

For AY 2022, COM had the highest percent of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance level with 86.2%, followed by QSR at 80.8%.

When evaluating ratings by term, COM had the highest percentage of Target or Advanced performance levels in Summer 2021 (93.9%).

COM 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 ($\overline{x}$ = 3.28).

For USLO ratings by subject, the percent of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance level was highest for COM for the subject area Theatre at 98.0%. For QSR, Geology has been the subject area with the highest percentage for the past four years, including AY 2022 at 91.4%.

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 seven. 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 total student performance in relation to the course USLO.

This report contains the results from the COM and QSR USLO ratings during the 2021-22 academic year (AY 22) which included the Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 terms. In most cases, 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 22 data was 5,780; 455 scores were from Summer 2021, 2,944 from Fall 2021, and 2,381 from Spring 2022. There were 452 cases with missing values or an overall student USLO rating of 0 = Not Evaluated; these scores are not included in the remainder of this report. Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent changes to delivery modes, a small number of AY 2022 courses did not report USLO scores, and this likely contributed to the number of missing values.

The total number of valid overall student COM and QSR USLO ratings for Summer 2021 was 428; Fall 2021 had a total of 2,733, and Spring 2022 had a total of 2,167, for an AY 2022 total of 5,328 overall USLO student ratings (see Table 1). A greater percent of overall student USLO ratings were entered for Fall 2021 courses (51.3%), although QSR had more ratings entered in Spring 2022 (47.2%) than Fall 2021 (45.8%).

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

USLO Attribute	Summer 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	AY 2022
COM	246	1,503	974	2,723
	9.0%	55.2%	35.8%	100%
QSR	182	1,230	1,193	2,605
	7.0%	47.2%	45.8%	100%
Total	**428**	**2,733**	**2,167**	**5,328**
	8.0%	**51.3%**	**40.7%**	**100%**

Number of Sections, Courses, and Subjects

The two USLOs were assessed during Summer 2021 in 29 sections of 17 general education courses in 8 subjects. In Fall 2021, there were 155 sections of 39 general education courses in 13 subjects assessed. In Spring 2022, 142 sections of 36 general education courses in 13 subjects were assessed. Overall the number of sections was 204, with 43 general education courses in 13 subjects. See Table 2 for subjects, courses, and sections by USLO Attribute and Term.
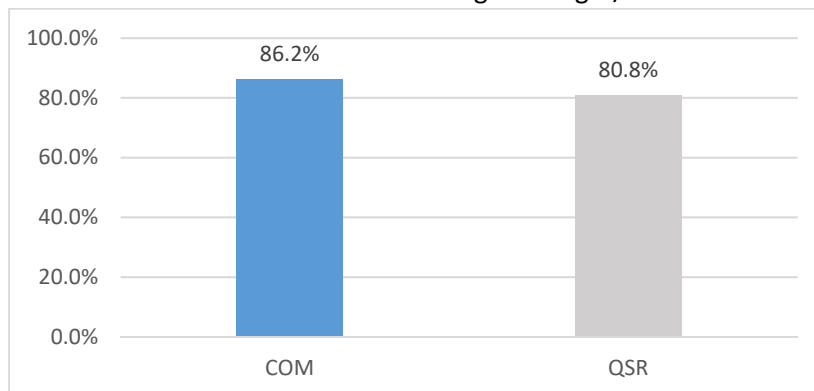
Table 2. Number of Subjects, Courses, and Sections by USLO Attribute and Term

USLO Attribute	Subjects	Courses	Sections
Summer 2021			
COM	2	4	16
QSR	6	13	13
Total	8	17	29
Fall 2021			
COM	4	12	81
QSR	9	27	74
Total	13	39	155
Spring 2022			
COM	4	13	65
QSR	9	23	77
Total	13	36	142
Totals for AY 22			
COM	4	13	91
QSR	9	30	113
Total	13	43	204

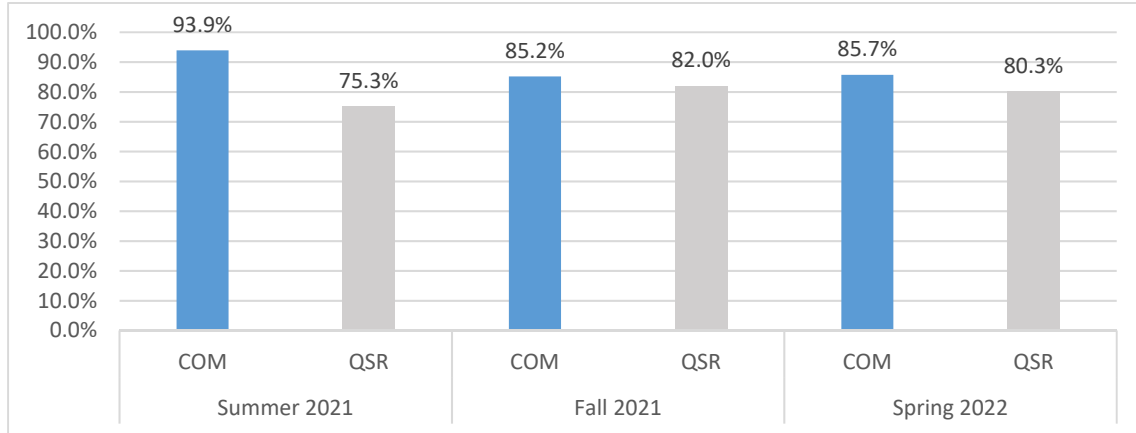## Percent of Student Summary Scores by Performance Levels and USLO

When examining the percentage of overall student ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels, 86.2% of COM and 80.8% of QSR had overall student 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 2021 through Spring 2022, COM yielded a higher percentage of overall student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels (93.9%, 85.2%, and 85.7%, respectively) than QSR with 75.3%, 82.0% and 80.3%, respectively. 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 were generated by attribute and term. See Table 3. The highest mean scores for each term and AY were for COM. The mean score for COM in Summer 2021 was 3.44. It was slightly lower in Fall 2021 ($\overline{x} = 3.25$) and Spring 2022 ($\overline{x} = 3.29$), making the mean score 3.28 for the AY. The mean score for QSR was lowest in Summer 2021 ($\overline{x} = 3.03$), was the highest in Fall 2021 ($\overline{x} = 3.11$), and had a similar score in Spring 2022 ($\overline{x} = 3.08$), which resulted in an overall lower score for the AY ($\overline{x} = 3.09$).

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

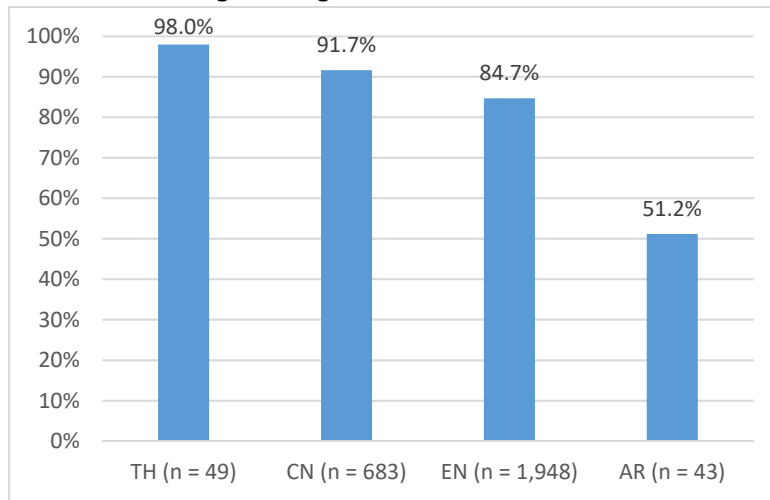| USLO Attribute	Mean	Standard Deviation	Total
Summer 2021			
COM	3.44	0.67	246
QSR	3.03	0.93	182
Total	3.27	0.82	428
Fall 2021			
COM	3.25	0.79	1,503
QSR	3.11	0.81	1,230
Total	3.19	0.80	2,733
Spring 2022			
COM	3.29	0.77	974
QSR	3.08	0.78	1,193
Total	3.18	0.78	2,167
Academic Year 2022			
COM	3.28	0.77	2,723
QSR	3.09	0.80	2,605
Total	3.19	0.79	5,328

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 AY 2022 were examined for patterns in the percentage trends.

Communication by Subject

Four subjects were assessed as COM during AY 2022. The percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for COM ranged from 98.0% to 51.2%. Theatre had the highest percent (98.0%), followed by Communication (91.7%), English (84.7%), and Art (51.2%). See Figure 4.
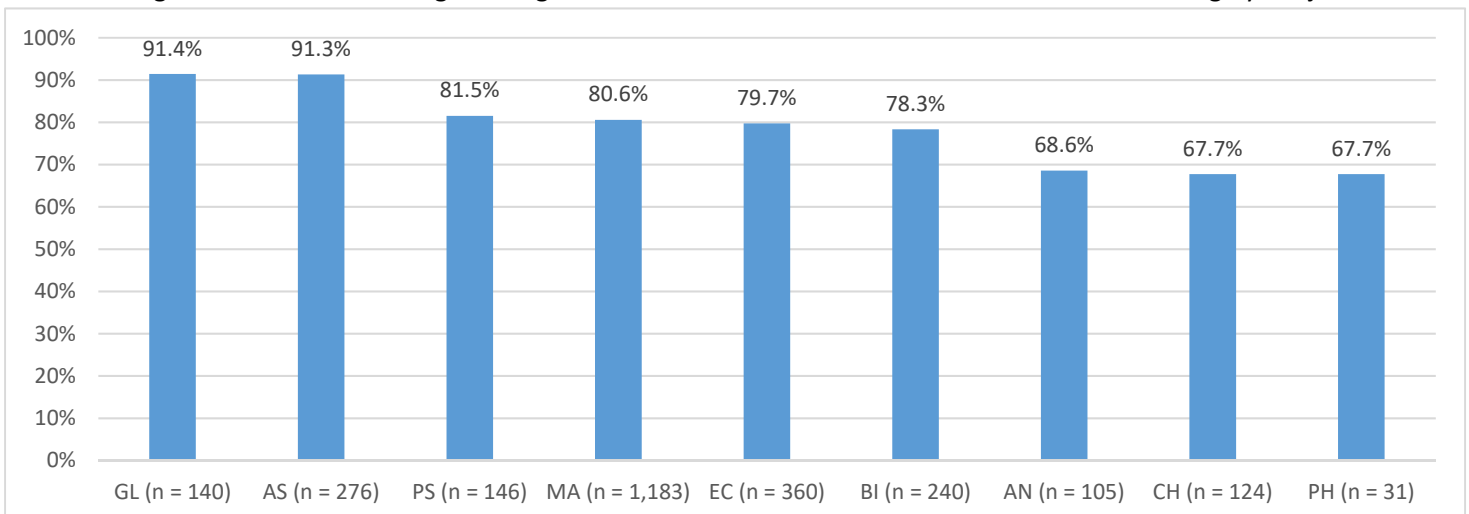
Figure 3. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Communication by Subject

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 and Astronomy (91.4% and 91.3%, respectively). Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, Economics, and Biology scores ranged from 81.5% to 78.3%. Anthropology, Chemistry and Philosophy were rated in the 70-65% range. See Figure 4.

Figure 4. Percent of Ratings at Target or Advanced for Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning by Subject
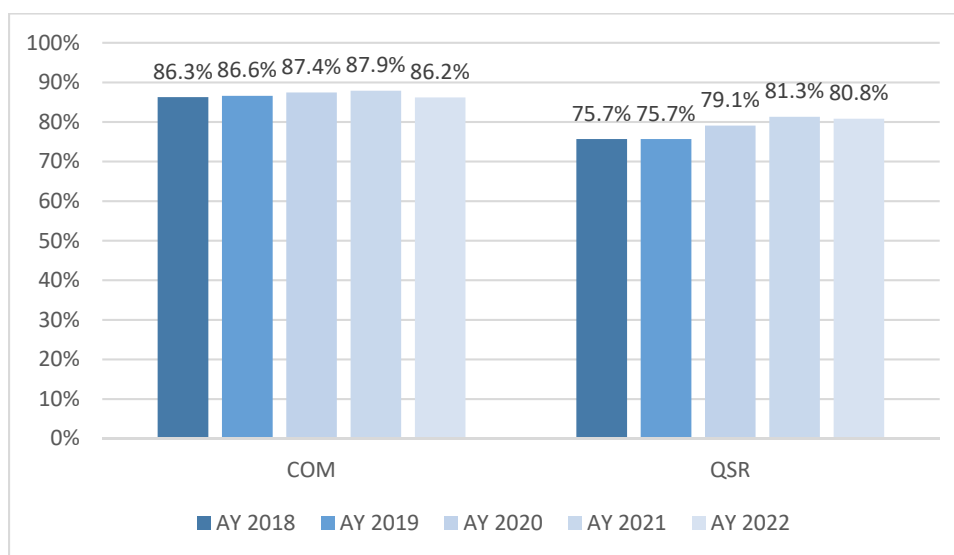
Comparison to Previous Results

In comparing the AY 2022 USLO results with those from previous years, there were several areas to note. Please consult previous reporting posted on the Washburn USLO website at https://www.washburn.edu/academics/assessment/uslo-assessment.html.

COM produced the lowest percentage of overall student ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels in five years for AY 2022 with 86.2%, although COM consistently has the highest scores of the five USLO attributes. The overall student ratings for QSR scores have stayed above 80% for the past two AYs (81.3% in AY 2021 and 80.8% in AY 2022). In earlier years, QSR was rated 79.1% in AY 2020 and 75.7% in AYs 2018 and 2019. See Figure 8.

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

In examining the USLO ratings by subject for AY 2021, For QSR, Geology has been the subject area with the highest percent of student USLO ratings for the past five years, including AY 2022 at 91.4% of Target or Advanced scores. Theatre was the subject area with the highest percent of student USLO ratings at the Target or Advanced performance levels for COM (98.1%), whereas in all previous years Communication Studies had the highest scores at the Target or Advanced performance levels for COM.

Limitations

During AY 2022, only two of the five USLOs, COM and QSR, were assessed, and these USLOs will not be assessed again for two years. Due to the course-embedded USLO scores being on three-year rotation, longitudinal data and/or trends will not be observable for consecutive years.

The total number of cases in the AY 22 data was 5,780; 455 scores were from Summer 2021, 2,944 from Fall 2021, and 2,381 from Spring 2022; however, there were 452 cases with missing values or an overall student USLO rating of 0 = Not Evaluated (7.8%). A small number of missing cases may have been due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent changes to delivery modes for which courses did not measure USLO scores.