ACSC
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manoa.hawaii.edu/assessment

Advanced Degree Institutional Learning Achievement Investigation: Methods and Opportunities for Action

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Advanced Degree Institutional Learning Achievement Investigation: Methods and Opportunities for Action

Maura Stephens-Chu and Yao Zhang Hill

Assessment & Curriculum Support Center

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Assessment & Curriculum Support Center

Session Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Consider applying the synthesis method
- Apply collaboration strategies to use results

Background & Context

UHM is a large public research university

Assessment & Curriculum Support Center

collects program assessment reports from 240 programs

Background & Context

In 2020, 99% of graduate programs submitted program assessment reports.

75% had learning results

Programs align program learning outcomes (PLO) with the institutional learning objectives (ILO)

Aggregated PLOs' results provide a picture of ILO achievements

UHM Advanced Degree Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs)

Knowledge and Understanding

- Knowledge of Concepts (ILO 1)
- Knowledge of Methods (ILO 2)

Intellectual and Applied Skills

- Conduct Research (ILO 3)
- Critical Analysis (ILO 4)

Communication Skills

- Communication (ILO 5)

Professional Responsibility

- Ethics and cultural sensitivity (ILO 6)
- Professionalism (ILO 7)

Methodology

1. Align PLOs with ILOs

2. Extract student learning achievement results for each PLO

3. Aggregate PLO achievement results for each ILO

Step 1: Align PLOs with ILOs

- 88% indicated the alignment between each program learning outcome (PLO) and the institutional learning objectives (ILOs) in their report.
- ACSC further identified the *primary* ILO(s) that each PLO aligns with

Step 1 Challenges

- One-to-one PLO-ILO alignment is hard
- The programs' and the ACSC's PLO-ILO alignment differ

Program Alignment

"Ph.D. graduates are able to comprehensively synthesize, evaluate, and interpret relevant fundamental knowledge in her or his sub-discipline." (Earth and Planetary Sciences PhD)

ACSC Alignment

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Program Alignment

"Apply current research methods and/or analysis techniques to original research in the area of specialization with minimal supervision from a faculty advisor." (Linguistics PhD)

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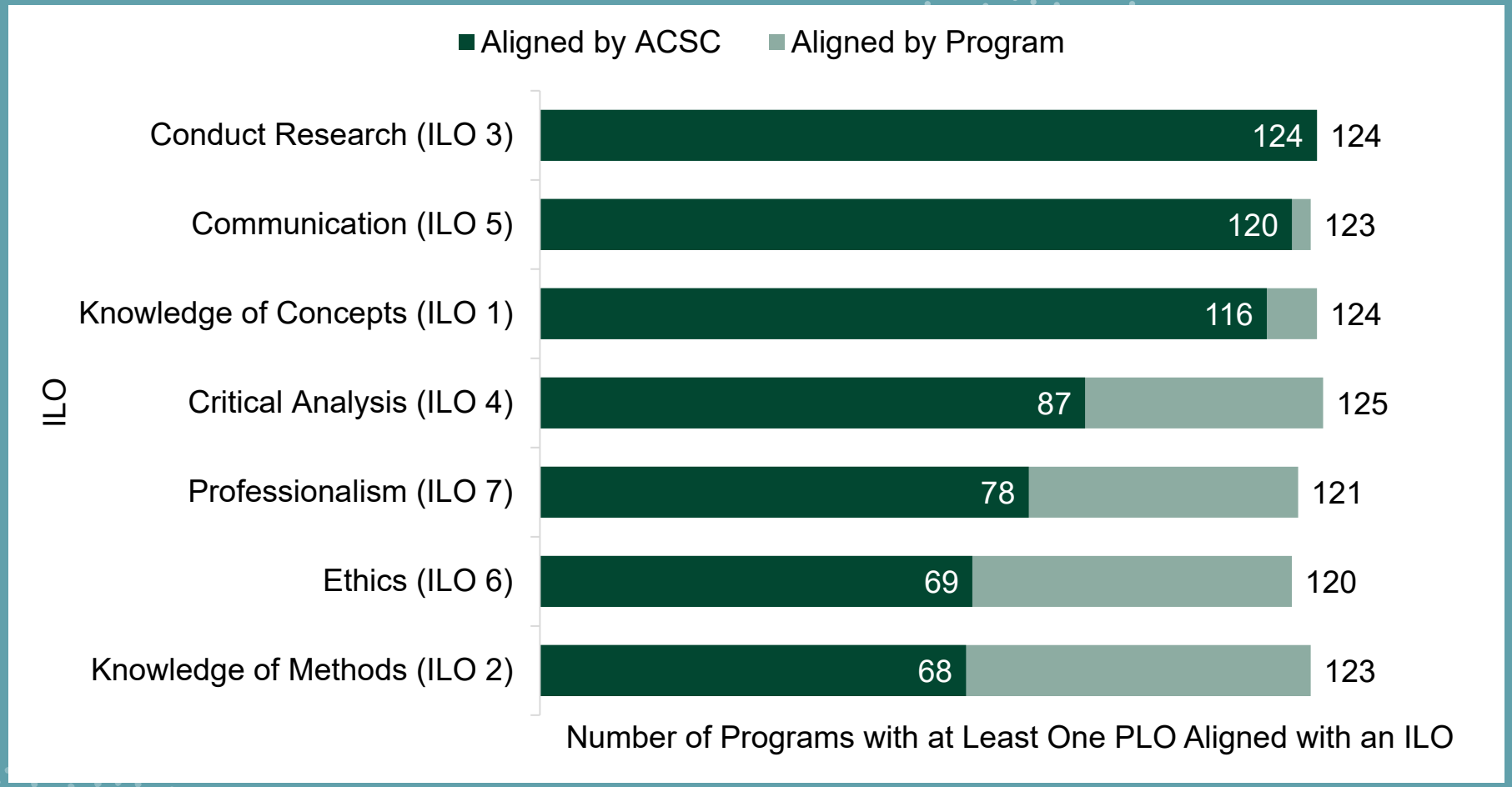
Step 1 PLO-ILO Alignment Discrepancies



Step 2: Extract PLO Results

Criteria for using the PLO results

- *Numerical* → % of students who met the PLO
- *On learning achievement, rather than other outcomes (e.g., graduation rates)*

Step 2: Extract PLO Results

"Students are performing well. Weaker area is grant writing; stronger area is dissemination/giving presentations."

Numerical? NO

Student Learning Achievement? YES

Step 2: Extract PLO Results

"87% [of alumni survey respondents] said that they gained such employment within one year of graduation."

Numerical? YES

Student Learning Achievement? NO

Step 2: Extract PLO Results

"SLO 1: technical knowledge: 89% met/exceeded expectations"

Numerical? YES

Student Learning Achievement? YES

Step 2 Challenges

"The entire faculty discusses how successfully the student learning outcomes/ student performance criteria are met for each class reviewed."

PLO results exist but are not specified

Step 2 Challenges

“Eight students successfully defended their dissertation...”

Assessment results’ alignment with PLOs is unclear

Step 3: Aggregate ILO Results

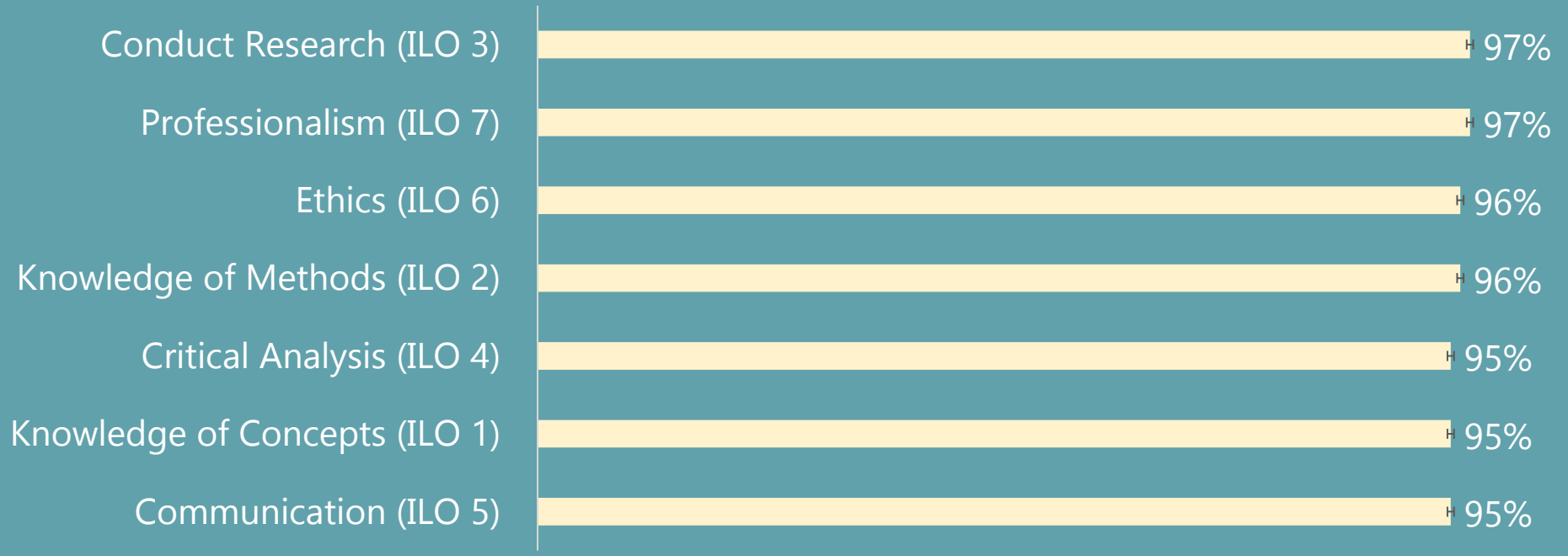
- PLO results recorded as: % of assessed students who met/exceeded expectations
- Only results with specific PLO alignment included (e.g., “90% of the students achieved PLO 1”)

Step 3 Challenges

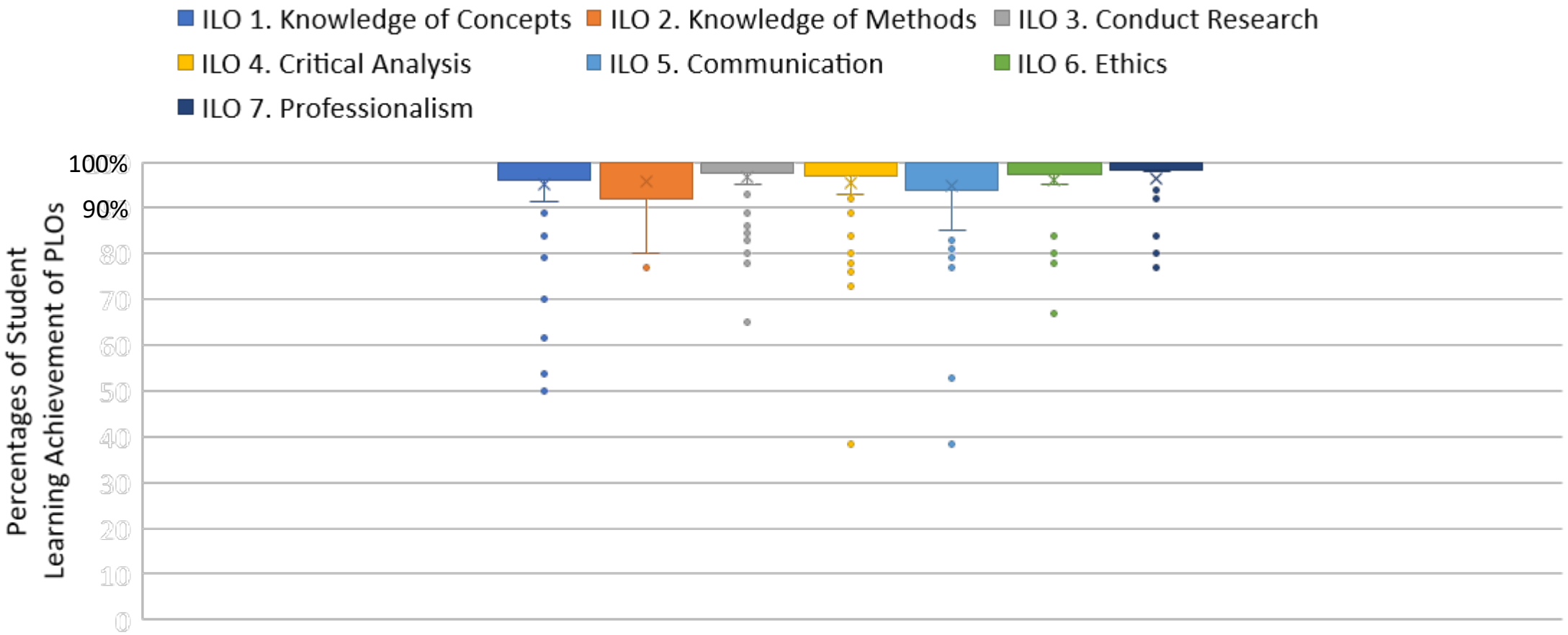
What to do with multiple sets of results:

- Direct *and* indirect evidence? → choose direct evidence
- Multiple sources of direct evidence? → choose culminating assignment
- Multiple cohorts? → choose most recent cohort

Results – Average Student Learning Achievement for PLOs Aligned with Each ILO



Range of Percentages of Student Learning Achievement of PLOs Aligned with ILOs



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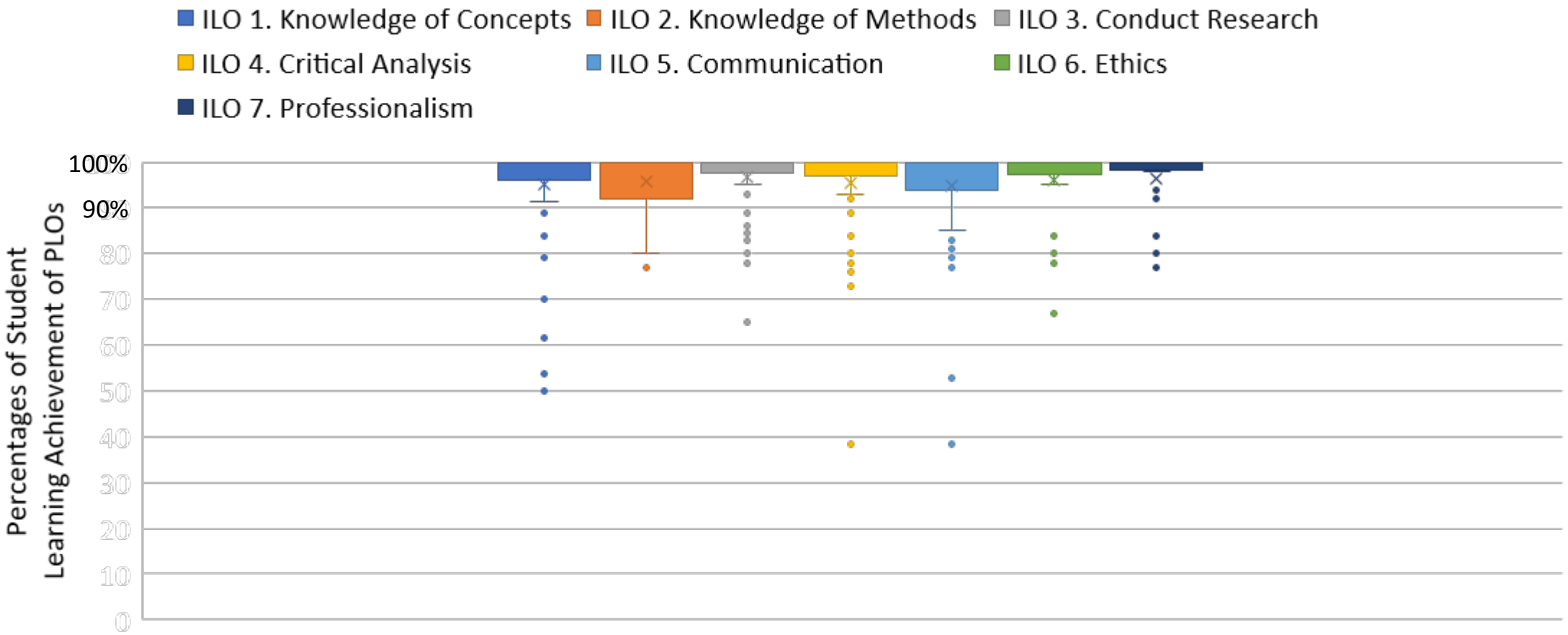
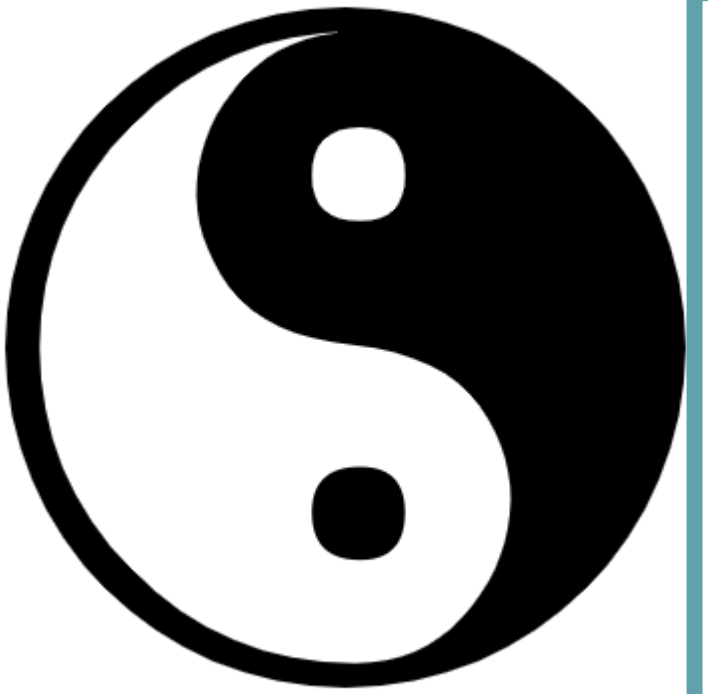


High achievement



Rigor?

Comparability?

First Reach: Graduate Division

Krystyna Aune, Dean

Julie Maeda, Associate Dean

Collaborative Actions

Present Results

Plan Actions

Showcase Excellence

Seek Collaborators

Graduate Program Learning Assessment: Processes, Tools, and Resources

Yao Z. Hill and **Maura Stephens-Chu**, ACSC
Joy Logan, Spanish
Rich Gazan, Library and Information Sciences
Kavita Rao, Special Education
Krystyna Aune and **Julienne Maeda**, Graduate Division
April 13, 2021

Assessment & Curriculum Support Center

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I MĀNOA

GRADUATE DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Learning Improvement Community

HAWAIʻINUIĀKEA
SCHOOL OF HAWAIIAN KNOWLEDGE

Communication Sciences and Disorders

LTEC
Learning Design & Technology

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Department of Social Work
Thompson School
Social Work & Public Health

Graduate Program Assessment-for-Learning-Improvement Showcase

11/3/2021
10:30-11:30 HST ; 4:30-5:30 EST
Register: go.hawaii.edu/2JV

Methods

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Collaborative Actions

Survey of Activities for Institutional Assessment of Graduate Student Learning Achievement

We would like to learn from you about institutional-level assessment of advanced degree program student learning achievement at your school!

Resources & Links

go.hawaii.edu/XVV

Questions?

Contact us:
airo@hawaii.edu
yaozhang@hawaii.edu

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Presentation at 2021 Assessment Institute

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University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Learning Achievement in Advanced Degree Programs: A Summary Analysis of the 2020 Graduate Program Assessment Reports
https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/10125/76243/1/Stephens-Chu_Hill_Grad_ILO_Report_2021.pdf

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Advanced Degree ILOs
https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/advanced-degree-institutional-learning-objectives-ilo/

Spring 2021 Workshop “Graduate Program Learning Assessment: Processes, Tools, and Resources”
https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/75701 (Slides/handout)
https://manoa.hawaii.edu/assessment/workshops-events/graduate-program-learning-assessment/ (website post with recording link and materials)

Fall 2021 Panel “Graduate Program Assessment-for-Learning-Improvement Showcase” on 11/3/2021 (4:30pm EST) Registration/Join in Progress
https://hawaii.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lf--uqDkoG9KiXYq2Nxv2LiExVDcNSOF5

Survey of Activities for Institutional Assessment of Graduate Student Learning Achievement
https://forms.gle/Nw6P2BeMX9GKB51i6

Assessment and Curriculum Support Center Assessment and Learning Resource Repository at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/16f1dxiQgU7GEfDUoId9lM0dnQR04rUOD