



Automation of Student Learning Assessment for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Ocean and Resources Engineering (ORE)

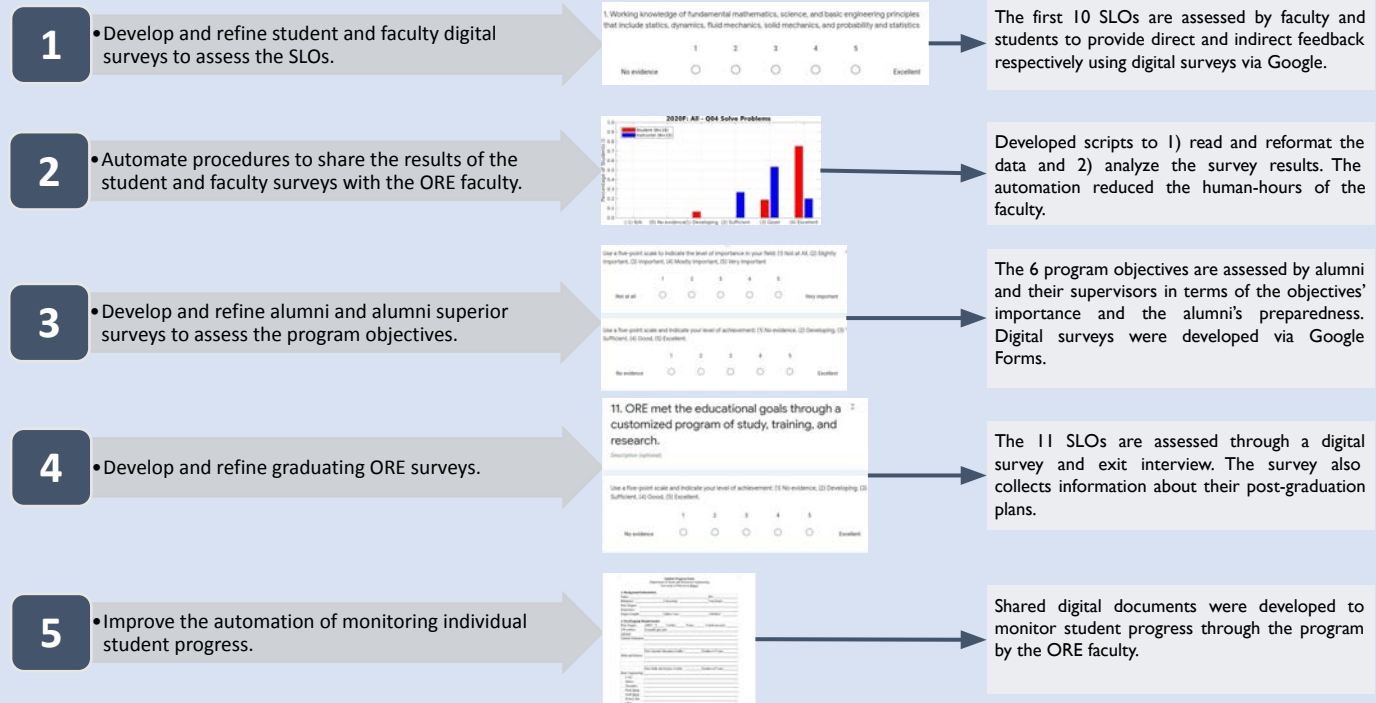
Justin E. Stopa (stopa@hawaii.edu), Kwok Fai Cheung, and Eva-Marie Nosal

Introduction

- The ORE MS program is certified by ABET.
- ABET reviews are performed every 6 years and ORE will be reviewed by ABET this year.
- ABET requirements were recently changed; consequently, ORE updated its student learning objectives (SLOs) and program objectives.
- To meet ABET requirements, ORE continuously evaluates the MS program by
 - updating the program in response to industry and research needs,
 - evaluating and modifying SLOs and program objectives,
 - and developing program assessment methods.
- ORE uses direct and indirect methods to assess the SLOs through faculty and student surveys as well as exit interviews.
- ORE uses direct and indirect methods to assess the program objectives through alumni and alumni supervisor surveys.

Goal: Improve automation of the assessment strategies using digital online technologies and computer scripts. This reduces human-hours and improve coordination between the faculty which ultimately improves the ORE MS program..

Project Goals - Automation Improvements



ORE Facts

- 8 faculty: 4 hired in the last 3 years
- Currently 16 students
- Average of 4 graduates every year
- Department established in 1966
- Program objectives: <https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/ore/program/program-objectives/>

Lessons Learned

- Communication between faculty was the most important aspect of the project.
- Incorporating feedback from students, alumni, and faculty improved automation and usability of the digital surveys.
- Using time to institutionalize the semi-automated program assessment will likely have long-term impacts for the department.

Outlook

- Improvement of the layout and organization of the surveys might improve the number of responses received (e.g. alumni surveys).
- Making the surveys more robust would improve the data quality.
- Using UH campus-wide services such as STAR could improve ORE's ability to monitor student progress.