

Mid-Term Course Survey

Research has shown that conducting mid-term evaluations and acting on the results has a positive impact on end of term feedback. Conducting mid-term evaluations can lead to higher ratings on end of year surveys (Cohen, 1980), improved student perception of the value of the process (Sviniki, 2001), and allows students to become more familiar and adept at completing meaningful evaluations (Lewis, 2001).

End of term surveys are meant to be summative by design. Students are asked to rate the overall course and instructor experience. Does it make sense to wait until the end of the term to know there was something that could have been done to improve student learning? Think about the best time in the term to administer a **short** (three to five questions) questionnaire. Remind students that you need their input and this is for their benefit. Review the responses, are things going generally well or do adjustments need to be made. Talk to students about their responses (as long as you can keep things anonymous) and most importantly, indicate what if any changes will be made and why.

Sample questions:

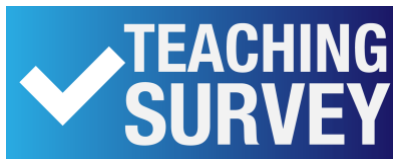
- *General:*
 - What is helping you to learn in this class?
 - What is making learning difficult?
 - What changes could be made to help you learn?
 - The aspect of this class that is most challenging for me is _____
 - What, if anything in this class makes you feel uncomfortable?
- *Specific topics:*
 - In what ways are you using the PowerPoint slides to help you learn?
 - Have you read the additional reading assignments and if so, how were they helpful?
 - In what ways do the online discussions help or hinder your learning?

How to administer your mid-term evaluation:

The Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching does not administer mid-term surveys but the University has other resources you may use. For more information, contact teaching@pitt.edu.

CourseWeb/Blackboard – You may administer surveys through CourseWeb/Blackboard. Please see the link below for instructions on designing, administering, and interpreting results. https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Tests_Pools_Surveys

Qualtrics – The University of Pittsburgh has a site license for the Qualtrics Survey Service. Qualtrics can be used to administer surveys, collect and store data, and analyze results. <http://technology.pitt.edu/services/qualtrics-survey-service>



References

Cohen, P. A. (1980). Effectiveness of student-rating feedback for improving college instruction: A meta-analysis of findings. *Research in Higher Education*, 13(4), 321-341

Lewis, K. G. (2001), Using Midsemester Student Feedback and Responding to It. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 2001: 33–44. doi:10.1002/tl.26

Svinicki, M. D. (2001), Encouraging Your Students to Give Feedback. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 2001: 17–24. doi:10.1002/tl.24

Additional Resources

<http://www.fod.msu.edu/oir/mid-term-student-feedback>

<https://www.northeastern.edu/learningresearch/teaching-support/earlymidterm-student-feedback/>

<https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/faculty-evaluation/three-steps-to-better-course-evaluations/>

<https://ctl.yale.edu/MidtermCourseEval>

http://teaching.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/sample_midterm_evals.pdf

<http://www.dug.edu/about/centers-and-institutes/center-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-and-learning/benefits-of-early-course-evaluations>

http://w4.stern.nyu.edu/citl/teaching/evaluations/hardcopy_survey.htm

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