

Course Evaluations: Selecting Appropriate Student Learning Outcomes and Garnering Response Rates

New Faculty Workshop
October 8, 2020



Office of Institutional Assessment, Research and Effectiveness

Learning Outcomes

New faculty will be able to:

1. Understand the use of IDEA as an evaluation of student ratings of faculty instruction.
2. Connect course learning objectives to align with IDEA course evaluation objectives.
3. Implement key strategies to maximize student response rate.



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Purpose of Course Evaluations

- Indirect measure of student learning
- Opportunity for students to provide feedback on an instructor's teaching methods and behaviors
- Compare an instructor's teaching effectiveness to a model of what an instructor should be doing



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Why IDEA?

- Approved by Academic Council for use informing decisions regarding professional development, improvement of instruction and future teaching assignments
- Allows for the selection of learning objectives relevant to your courses
- Effectiveness of teaching is then focused on student perception's of the types of learning that you are targeting

Comparison is made on what you value for a particular course.



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Two Forms of Course Survey

Learning Essentials

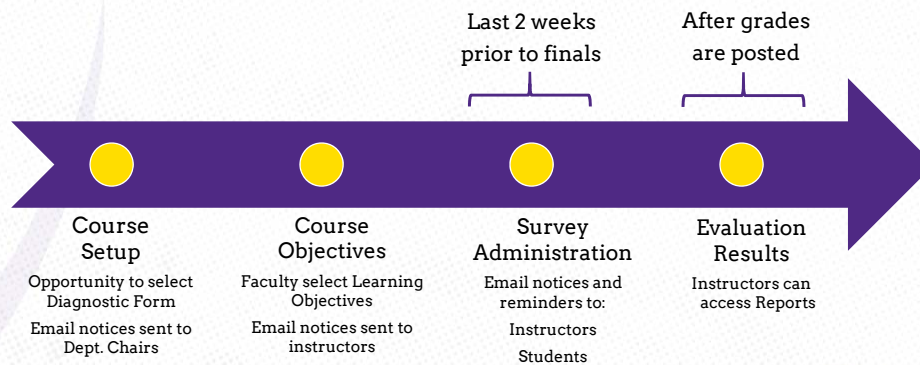
- Default form
- Ratings of Progress on Objectives
- Student Motivation and Effort

Diagnostic

- Optional Form
- Ratings of Progress on Objectives
- Student Motivation and Effort
- Student Observation of Teaching Techniques



Process

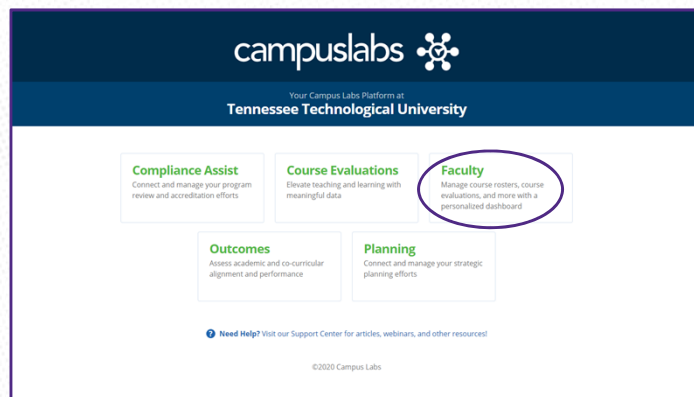


Campus Labs - Online Administration



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Campus Labs: Instructor Login



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Campus Labs: Instructor Dashboard

Home Course Evaluation Questions Feedback OSF Manager Trends Analysis

Instructor

Selected Term
Fall 2020

My Courses

PRST 6300 (500) Results 0 View Course Results
Objectives Selection Form

Course Evaluations

Starts in 2 Months Results

Begins 11/18/2020 at 8:00 AM CST Available 12/11/2020 at 8:00 AM CST
Ends 12/4/2020 at 11:59 PM CST



Campus Labs: Objectives Selection Form

Home Course Evaluation Questions Feedback Trends Analysis

Objectives Selection Form

Select Learning Objectives Course CIP Code: 52.0801

As a general rule, prioritize what you want students to learn by selecting no more than 3-5 objectives as "Important" or "Essential". When calculating Progress on Relevant Objectives, IDEA weighs Minor/ Not Relevant "0", Important objectives "1", Essential objectives "2"

4 Learning Objectives have been selected as "Important" or "Essential"

Autofilled objective recommended by your Admin. You can only increase this value

Learning Objectives #	Minor	Important	Essential
1 Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
2 Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Learning Objectives

As a general rule, prioritize what you want students to learn by selecting no more than 3-5 objectives as *Important* or *Essential*.

IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction System
Selecting IDEA Learning Objectives

The selection of relevant course objectives is an essential part of the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction System. This document will explain how to select Learning Objectives and why your selection of objectives is important.

Purpose of Selecting Relevant Course Objectives
The IDEA survey consists of 100 questions that are designed to assess student perceptions of an instructor's teaching methods and behavior. The results of these types of instruments are then usually compared to a model of what a teacher should be doing in order to judge teaching effectiveness.

The philosophy behind the IDEA system is different. The IDEA survey's chief indicator of teaching effectiveness is how well students rate their progress on the types of learning that faculty target. Since every course is different, it is important to clearly targeted learning goals. Faculty can identify course objectives by completing the Objective Selection Form (OSF).

Learning Objectives	Essential	Important	Minor/Not Relevant
1. Analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources to identify the main ideas and supporting details.	1	1	1
2. Apply critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility and bias of information.	1	1	1
3. Demonstrate effective communication skills in writing and speaking.	1	1	1
4. Identify and explain the relationship between theory and practice.	1	1	1
5. Apply problem-solving skills to analyze and resolve complex situations.	1	1	1
6. Demonstrate effective time management and organizational skills.	1	1	1
7. Apply research skills to locate, evaluate, and use information.	1	1	1
8. Demonstrate effective teamwork and collaboration skills.	1	1	1
9. Apply critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility and bias of information.	1	1	1
10. Demonstrate effective communication skills in writing and speaking.	1	1	1

As a general rule, prioritize what you want students to learn by selecting no more than 3-5 objectives as Important or Essential. When selecting "Progress on Relevant Objectives," IDEA weighs "Major/Not Relevant objectives," "Important objectives," and "Essential objectives."

The selection of relevant course objectives is an essential component to the IDEA student ratings system. It gives faculty a voice in the rating process and empowers the faculty member to be an active participant in the assessment process.

Additional descriptions of each objective:
<https://www.ideaedu.org/idea-notes-on-learning/>



Guidelines for Interpreting Categories

- Essential – objective aligns with course learning outcomes
- Important – objective is addressed in the course but not an explicit learning outcome
- Minor/Not Relevant - the course does not focus on the objective



How Learning Objectives Selection Impacts Results

- Overall IDEA Ratings are weighted by the learning objectives that you select.
- *IDEA weighs objectives:*
 - *Minor/Not Relevant "0"*
 - *Important "1"*
 - *Essential "2"*
- Not completing the Objective Selection Form will cause all objectives to be selected as *Minor*

This will cause lower IDEA Ratings



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Primary Questions

for identifying important or essential objectives

1. Is this a significant part of the course?
2. Do I do something specific to help the students accomplish this objective?
3. Does the student's progress on this objective affect his or her grade?



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Other Sources of Help

for identifying important or essential objectives

- Reviewing the curriculum map for your department may offer guidance
- Feedback from colleagues within your department who teach or may have taught the course



Response Rates

IDEA recommends a response rate above 60%.

Top 3 High Impact/ Low Effort Strategies

1. Allowing Class Time to complete the evaluation
2. Monitoring Response Rates
3. Email Reminders/Announcements in iLearn



Preparation is Key

Face-to-Face

- Choose a specific class meeting
- Announce date so students can bring a device

Online Courses

- Choose a deadline
- Consider creating an assignment in iLearn with "No Grade"

Explain the value of student feedback
Encourage students to complete the comment field



Viewing Response Rates

My Courses

ACC 249 (1) Roster: 8 View Course Roster Objectives Selection Form

Course Evaluations

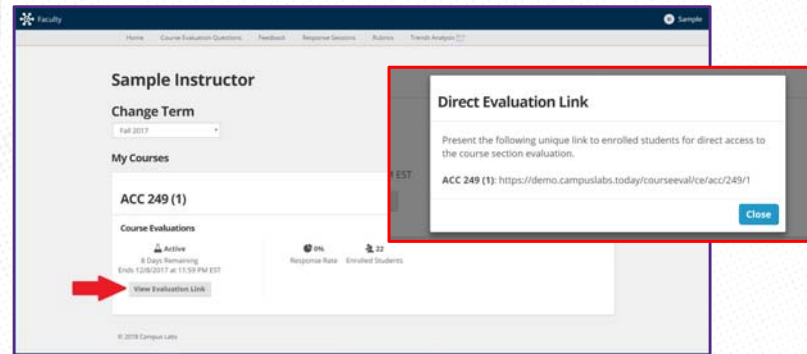
Completed View Results

On 3/2/2017 at 4:31 PM EST

88% Response Rate 8 Enrolled Students



Direct Student Link



The screenshot shows the Faculty Dashboard interface. A modal window titled "Direct Evaluation Link" is open, displaying the following text: "Present the following unique link to enrolled students for direct access to the course section evaluation." Below this, the course "ACC 249 (1)" is listed with its unique link: <https://demo.campuslabs.today/courseeval/ce/acc249/1>. A "Close" button is visible in the bottom right corner of the modal. In the background, the dashboard shows "My Courses" with "ACC 249 (1)" listed, and a "View Evaluation Link" button highlighted with a red arrow.



Important Links

TnTech Resources:
tntech.edu/iare/assessment/

Faculty Dashboard:
tntech.campuslabs.com/faculty/

Student Dashboard:
tntech.campuslabs.com/courseeval/



Campus Labs Demo

tntech.edu/iare/



The screenshot shows the website for the Office of Institutional Assessment, Research, and Effectiveness (IARE) at Tennessee Tech. The page features a navigation bar with links for About, Academics, Admissions, Student Life, Research, and Athletics. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads "OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, AND EFFECTIVENESS". The page is divided into two columns. The left column contains a list of links: Office of Institutional Assessment, Research, and Effectiveness; Institutional Assessment; Institutional Research; Institutional Effectiveness; Make a Request; Resources; and Staff. The right column contains a paragraph describing the mission of the IARE, which is to support data-informed decision making, policy formulation, budgeting, programming, and continuous improvement at Tennessee Tech through a systematic, integrated and strategic approach to planning, assessment, and data-based reporting. IARE combines and enhances three primary functions: Institutional Assessment (IA), Institutional Research (IR), and Institutional Effectiveness (IE). The text also mentions that the site provides access to a variety of assessment results, IR dashboards and data-based reports, and IE guides and reports, as well as other resources. Requests for information can also be made by completing the IARE Data Request Form or by contacting them directly at iare@tntech.edu.



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QUESTIONS?



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Upcoming Workshop

Course Evaluations:
Engaging with Course Evaluation Results to
Improve Teaching Pedagogy

January 21, 2021



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