

RSENR Course Evaluation Framework

Process: Questions are presented to the students as a series of statements. They are asked to score the degree to which they agree or disagree with each of the 25 statements. The scoring response are:

- 5 -- Strongly Agree
- 4 – Agree
- 3 -- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 2 – Disagree
- 1 -- Strongly Disagree
- 0 – Not applicable or not answered

Note that prior to 2016 this scoring was reversed (1=Strongly agree and 5=Strongly disagree). Care should be taken when interpreting scores from courses prior to 2016.

The 25 statements that the students assess are:

1. The instructor encouraged students to express themselves freely and openly.
2. The instructor or teaching assistant was generally available to help students outside of class.
3. The instructor introduced stimulating ideas about the subject.
4. I was stimulated by this course to a high level of intellectual thought and/or effort .
5. The instructor explained the course material clearly.
6. The _instructor was well-prepared for class.
7. The instructor welcomed different points of view.
8. This course has helped me improve my problem-solving and/or decision-making abilities.
9. I value the knowledge I gained in this course.
10. The instructor was enthusiastic about the subject matter.
11. Weighting of examinations/evaluations and other assignments was fair considering the overall goals of the course
12. As a result of this course, I am interested in learning more about this subject matter.
13. The instructor treated the students with respect.
14. The instructor had an interesting and effective way of conducting the class (lecture, discussion, role playing, etc.) .
15. This course provoked me to think about the subject matter.
16. The course was well organized.
17. I would recommend this course to other students.
18. The instructor was reasonable in his or her expectations of students.
19. The instructor kept students informed of their progress and performance in the course.
20. I felt like an individual in this course, not just a number.
21. I would rate the instructor highly compared to others at The University of Vermont.
22. I would rate the course highly compared to others at The University of Vermont.
23. I gained a lot of factual knowledge (e.g. terminology, classifications, methods, trends) from this course.
24. I gained a lot of theoretical knowledge (e.g. principles, concepts, theories) from this course.
25. As a result of this course, I have gained competence, skills and/or points of view needed in this subject area.

Students also have an opportunity to add narrative comments through a final open-ended question.

Analysis: The scores assigned by all students, from the 25 questions, for a given course are then aggregated into a seven criteria that RSENr faculty have defined as the characteristics of excellence in teaching that are best assessed by students. These criteria are:

- Stimulation of enthusiasm and intellectual interest (I/O)
- Encourages students to think (I/O)
- Effectiveness of transferring knowledge
- Communication of instructor
- Organization/administration (I/O)
- Fairness (I/O)
- Caring (I/O)

In some cases (denoted “I/O”) these criteria are further subdivided into INPUT and OUTPUT dimensions. The INPUT dimension refers to instructor actions designed to achieve each criterion, and OUTPUT dimension refers to the degree to which each criterion was achieved in the judgement of students. This yields a total of 12 INPUT and OUTPUT criteria/dimensions.

Each of the 12 INPUT and OUTPUT criteria/dimensions is defined by a unique set of from 1 to 4 of the scores provided by the students. The numeric value reported is the average of the average scores for the component questions.

Criteria	I/O	Criteria	Student questions			
1	Input	Stimulation of enthusiasm and intellectual interest	10	3		
1	Output	Stimulation of enthusiasm and intellectual interest	4	12		
2	Input	Encourages students to think	7	1		
2	Output	Encourages students to think	15	8		
3	Output	Effectiveness of transferring knowledge	23	24	25	
4	Input	Communication of instructor	5	14		
5	Input	Organization/administration	6			
5	Output	Organization/administration	16			
6	Input	Fairness	18	19		
6	Output	Fairness	11			
7	Input	Caring	2	13		
7	Output	Caring	20			
8	Not applicable	Student satisfaction	9	17	21	22

The students’ scores are summarized in a variety of ways:

- average responses to each individual question
- average of the average component scores for each criteria/dimension
- overall “Student Satisfaction” score calculated as the average of the average scores from questions 9, 17, 21, and 22 (criterion 8 above).

For comparison purposes, individual course/instructor evaluations include the average scores for each criterion/dimension average across all instructors and courses for the semester in question.