

## IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction

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## IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction

The IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system takes a positive approach to soliciting student input. Rather than emphasizing the instructor's teaching techniques or personality, the IDEA system focuses on student learning.

Research has shown that there is no one correct way to teach, so The IDEA Center tailors each report to fit the instructor's teaching objectives. Teaching effectiveness is determined by student progress on goals chosen by the instructor, not by an outdated, rigid model of what effective teaching is supposed to be. Research based on our very large national database allows us to provide diagnostic assistance for those with disappointing results. Fairness is improved by taking into account the influence of factors outside the instructor's control.

The IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system is unique in its emphasis on using the results constructively. Reader-friendly faculty reports are produced that include not only ratings of teaching effectiveness, but also diagnostic assistance to help the instructor improve. These reports gain even more usefulness when combined across classes or years by using the Group Summary Report. No other evaluation service offers such comprehensive, longitudinal reporting services.

Why do campuses use IDEA?

- **IDEA Center Experience and Expertise**

The IDEA Center has been serving institutions of higher education since 1975 and is a national leader in faculty evaluation and development. Because our mission is focused on providing products and services to evaluate and improve teaching and learning, we can provide an instrument that is based on in-depth research and leverages best practices in the area. Our experienced and dedicated staff members are available to offer consultation in how to effectively develop and implement faculty evaluation systems using IDEA.

- **Student Learning Model**

While the IDEA forms and reports have been periodically updated, the model that serves as the foundation of the system has stood the test of time.

***Specific teaching methods influence certain types of student progress (learning) under certain circumstances.***

The Diagnostic Form includes 20 teaching methods, 12 learning objectives, and adjusts scores for five student and course circumstances that our research has found to influence student ratings but are beyond the control of the instructor (see [Research Report 6](#) and [Technical Report 12](#)).

While the Short Form does not address the "method" component of the model, the 12 learning objectives are included and scores are adjusted for three extraneous factors.

- **Faculty Input**

Faculty members complete a Faculty Information Form for each course being surveyed. This allows them to tailor their results for each course as they identify which of the 12 learning objectives are relevant to their courses.