“Course Evaluation” Revisited

What are they called?

“Course evaluations” is often the term used for end-of-course student feedback (ESF) surveys.

Preferred Terms

- ESF: Course Evaluation (ESF: End-of-Course Student Feedback)
- SRI: Student Ratings of Instruction
- SET: Student Evaluation of Teaching

Additional Terms

- SRT: Student Ratings of Teaching
- SIR: Student Instructional Report
- SRI: Student Response to Instruction
- SRTE: Student Ratings of Teaching Effectiveness

Recommendations for Evaluating Teaching Effectiveness

Students can provide insight and important feedback about a course and instructor, and may be a reliable and valid measure if it is part of a larger, comprehensive evaluation system that triangulates evidence of teaching effectiveness. A student survey alone, however, should not be seen as the single measure of teaching effectiveness. Students do provide us with the information, but it is up to faculty, departments and tenure committees to provide the evaluation component and decision-making.

Model 1 – Dimensions of Effective Teaching

General instructional skill

Cognitive dimension = Communication of the material
- Lesson clarity
- Course & lesson organization
- Engaging/Interesting presentation

Affective dimension = Interpersonal rapport
- Interest in & care about students
- Promoting motivation
- Interactions with students

Model 2 – Student Ratings

- Instructional design
- Instructional delivery
- Instructional assessment
- Course management
- Self-reported course impact on student
- Alternative and supplementary teaching/learning environments
