

# A Guide to Interpreting M1 & M2 Student Evaluations

**Overview.** Evaluations for most M1 and M2 courses consist of three components: Course, Faculty, and Small Group. Depending on your teaching responsibilities in a course, you will have access to varying levels of evaluation data. For example, a Course Director will have access to ratings and comments for all of the evaluations within the course. A faculty member who lectures in the course will only see his/her lecture evaluation and the course overall ratings. Additional detail about the evaluations is provided in the next section.

**Course Evaluation.** For each M1 and M2 course, there is a set of core items, which are used to calculate the Overall Mean. Some courses have added supplemental items, which are not included in the Overall Mean. Students are asked to evaluate each of these items on a 5-point Likert Type Scale where 5 = *Strongly Agree*, 1 = *Strongly Disagree*, and 3 represents a *Neutral* response. Students are also asked to answer two open-ended questions: *What are some areas where this course could be improved?* *What did you like best about this course?* Faculty members within the course have access only to the summary of the rated items; whereas Course Directors have access to the comments as well.

Average of students' ratings where  
 5 = *Strongly Agree*  
 4 = *Agree*  
 3 = *Neutral*  
 2 = *Disagree*  
 1 = *Strongly Disagree*

Number of students who rated each item.

Number of students who selected this rating (Percentage of the number of students who selected this rating/ total number of students who answered this item)

For this example, 44 (46% of 96) students selected *Strongly Agree* for item 1.

|                     |  | Strongly Agree | Agree   | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Mean        | Responses | Stand Dev |
|---------------------|--|----------------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1                   | This course was well designed and organized.   | 44 (46)        | 40 (42) | 8 (8)   | 4 (4)    |                   | 4.29        | 96        | 0.79      |
| 2                   | The course syllabus was well organized and an accurate guide to course requirements.                 | 43 (45)        | 44 (46) | 8 (8)   | 1 (1)    |                   | 4.34        | 96        | 0.68      |
| 3                   | Learning objectives for the course and lectures were clear.  | 41 (43)        | 42 (44) | 13 (14) |          |                   | 4.29        | 96        | 0.69      |
| 4                   | The sequence of course content facilitated my learning.  | 44 (46)        | 32 (33) | 14 (15) | 6 (6)    |                   | 4.19        | 96        | 0.91      |
| 5                   | Course content and examinations items reflected the learning objectives for the course and lectures. | 43 (45)        | 43 (45) | 7 (7)   | 2 (2)    | 1 (1)             | 4.30        | 96        | 0.78      |
| 6                   | Examination items were well constructed and clear.   | 35 (36)        | 42 (44) | 11 (11) | 7 (7)    | 1 (1)             | 4.07        | 96        | 0.93      |
| 7                   | Course assignments contributed to my learning.   | 41 (43)        | 45 (47) | 9 (9)   |          | 1 (1)             | 4.30        | 96        | 0.73      |
| 8                   | The electronic resources (e.g., web sites, BlueLine) for this course contributed to my learning.     | 42 (44)        | 40 (42) | 9 (9)   | 3 (3)    | 1 (1)             | 4.25        | 95        | 0.84      |
| <b>OVERALL MEAN</b> |  |                |         |         |          |                   | <b>4.25</b> |           |           |
| 9                   | Supplemental Question 1  | 41 (43)        | 42 (44) | 13 (14) |          |                   | 4.29        | 96        | 0.69      |

The *Standard Deviation* statistic is the deviation of each response from the mean. A small Stand Dev means that responses were close to the mean; whereas a large Stand Dev means that the responses were more spread out among the response options.

Average of all the core items

Average of the supplemental item; not included in the OVERALL MEAN.

**Faculty Evaluation.** Students are asked to rate each faculty member who lectured in the course on four items, using the same 5-point scale used in the course evaluation. Students also have an opportunity to provide comments for each faculty member. All faculty who lecture within a course will have access to their individual ratings and comments and a summary of the Overall Ratings.

Average of students' ratings where  
 5 = *Strongly Agree*  
 4 = *Agree*  
 3 = *Neutral*  
 2 = *Disagree*  
 1 = *Strongly Disagree*

Number of students who rated each item.

Number of students who selected this rating (Percentage of the number of students who selected this rating/ total number of students who answered this item)

For this example, 58 (65% of 89) students selected *Strongly Agree* for item 1.

|                     |  | Strongly Agree | Agree   | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Mean        | Responses | Stand Dev |
|---------------------|--|----------------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1                   | This instructor was interested in helping students learn.                                      | 58 (65)        | 26 (29) | 5 (6)   |          |                   | 4.60        | 89        | 0.60      |
| 2                   | This instructor communicated at a level appropriate to my understanding.                       | 54 (61)        | 29 (33) | 5 (6)   |          |                   | 4.56        | 88        | 0.62      |
| 3                   | The learning materials (handouts, audiovisuals, web content, etc.) contributed to my learning. | 52 (58)        | 29 (33) | 5 (6)   | 3 (3)    |                   | 4.46        | 89        | 0.75      |
| 4                   | Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.   | 54 (61)        | 28 (32) | 6 (7)   |          |                   | 4.55        | 88        | 0.60      |
| <b>OVERALL MEAN</b> |  |                |         |         |          |                   | <b>4.54</b> |           |           |

The *Standard Deviation* statistic is the deviation of each response from the mean. A small Stand Dev means that responses were close to the mean; whereas a large Stand Dev means that the responses were more spread out among the response options.

**Small Group Evaluation.** Students are asked to rate their small group experience(s) on a 5-point Likert Type Scale where 5 = *Strongly Agree*, 1 = *Strongly Disagree*, and 3 represents a *Neutral* response. Students also have the opportunity to provide comments. All small group leaders within a course will have access to a summary of the Overall Ratings and to their individual ratings and comments.

Average of students' ratings where  
 5 = *Strongly Agree*  
 4 = *Agree*  
 3 = *Neutral*  
 2 = *Disagree*  
 1 = *Strongly Disagree*

Number of students who rated each item.

Number of students who selected this rating (Percentage of the number of students who selected this rating/ total number of students who answered this item)

For this example, 52 (55% of 95) students selected *Strongly Agree* for item 1.

|                     |   | Strongly Agree | Agree   | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Mean        | Responses | Stand Dev |
|---------------------|---|----------------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1                   | The small group session(s) helped me integrate the material.    | 52 (55)        | 34 (36) | 6 (6)   |          | 3 (3)             | 4.39        | 95        | 0.87      |
| 2                   | The difficulty of the cases was about right.                    | 48 (51)        | 42 (45) | 2 (2)   | 1 (1)    | 1 (1)             | 4.44        | 94        | 0.70      |
| 3                   | Our facilitator was effective at facilitating group discussion. | 62 (65)        | 26 (27) | 5 (5)   | 1 (1)    | 1 (1)             | 4.55        | 95        | 0.74      |
| <b>OVERALL MEAN</b> |   |                |         |         |          |                   | <b>4.46</b> |           |           |

The *Standard Deviation* statistic is the deviation of each response from the mean. A small Stand Dev means that responses were close to the mean; whereas a large Stand Dev means that the responses were more spread out among the response options.