

TEAM Teaching Ways to Evaluate

You basically have 5 options when you evaluate team taught courses. The selection of what option you choose is dependent upon class size and the purpose of the rating. Those options include:

- 1) Randomly dividing a class in half and having half of the class rate each instructor. This is effective if you have at least 30 total respondents and the course objectives are the same for each instructor.
- 2) Have students complete ratings forms for all faculty teaching the course (rate different faculty on different days).
- 3) Rate different faculty in different semesters
- 4) Create a separate additional question for each instructor (e.g. Overall, I rate Professor X an excellent teacher).
- 5) Telling students to rate the overall impact of the course and treat all instructors as if they were one person.

A more complete description of when to use these options follows.

There are many possibilities for evaluating courses that are team taught, and you will want to allow the specifics of the situation determine the possibility that you select. The first question you need to ask is if you want to evaluate the COURSE that is team-taught or the INSTRUCTORS teaching the course. If you need the evaluation for personnel decisions, then you will want to evaluate the instructors individually. If you want to have feedback on the course (to continue the development of the course) or if both instructors specify similar objectives, then you may just want to evaluate the course.

To evaluate the COURSE, you would have the two instructors complete one common Faculty Information Form (FIF). For the last name information on the FIF, they would either pick one of the instructor's names or combine the names of the two instructors to create a new last name. Students will then complete the student ratings on the "overall" course. You can use the extra questions to rate the overall excellence of instructor A and Instructor B.

There are at least three possibilities if you want to evaluate each of the INSTRUCTORS. First, if it is a large section class, randomly divide the students into two groups and each group evaluates one of the instructors. Each of the instructors must complete an individual FIF.

If the course is taught in sections (e.g., one faculty member teaches the first part of the term, the second member teaches the second half of the term), the students could complete the survey after each instructor has completed their section of teaching. The students would complete the student ratings multiple times during the term. Again, each of the instructors must complete an individual FIF.

Another possibility for team-taught courses where you want to evaluate the individual instructor separately is to consider alternating terms that you evaluate instructors. For example, during Fall term, Instructor A is evaluated and during Winter term, Instructor B is evaluated.

It is possible to rate both instructors individually during a single term. If you do this, we recommend using the short form of IDEA and consider rating each instructor on different days.

The above discussion can also apply to questions about combined classes. If you believe that the student ratings for the classes will be similar (same instructor, same location and time) then you might just want to complete one Faculty Information Form and combine the students together. If, however, you want feedback from one subgroup of the students and you suspect that your report will be different, then you may want to process the IDEA report for each of the individual classes, even with lower numbers. We would recommend that you continue to collect information from this specific class with the low numbers over a period of time before you use the findings from the report. You need to consider what the evaluation will be used for, how similar or different the classes will be, and then make your decision.