Abstract

As instructors seek to improve teaching, it is a challenge to assess progress and identify the areas in most need of improvement. At many institutions, the standard student surveys fall short. However, the Classroom Survey of Student Engagement (CLASSE) helps supplement for such formative teaching evaluations. The CLASSE is a classroom-level adaptation of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), an effort to collect and benchmark student participation in activities that research has linked to student learning. The CLASSE consists of both a faculty and student version, both of which include 41 predefined questions. The Faculty CLASSE invites instructors to evaluate the importance of various activities and practices that occur as part of their classes. The Student CLASSE asks students to reflect on their behavior related to the same activities and practices. Based on the findings, instructors are able to prioritize areas for improvement. The Student CLASSE begins with a question of “So far this semester, how often have you done each of the following in your [Course XYZ] class?” Then, it lists 19 different items ranging from “Asked questions during your [Course XYZ] class” to “Worked harder than you thought you could to meet your [Course XYZ] instructor’s standards and expectations.” Other items focus on cognitive skills and class atmosphere. The CLASSE is a promising resource for anyone seeking to improve student engagement and document the results of their efforts.

How to Participate in the CLASSE
 (*Reprinted from http://nsse.iub.edu/_/?cid=211)

1. Determine your institution’s CLASSE eligibility by confirming your institution has participated in NSSE at least once in the last three years.
2. Download and review the CLASSE Item Usage Proposal Form
3. Make decisions about your CLASSE administration, including:
   • Course selection
   • Optional course-specific survey items
4. Prepare drafts of your CLASSE Student and Faculty Instruments.
5. Seek authorization to implement CLASSE from NSSE research analyst Amber D. Lambert by sending her the completed CLASSE Item Usage Proposal and copies of the draft CLASSE Student and CLASSE Faculty Instruments.
6. For More Information:
   http://www.assessment.ua.edu/CLASSE/Overview.htm
   http://nsse.iub.edu/_/?cid=211

Formative Evaluation with the Classroom Survey of Student Engagement (CLASSE)

How would your students describe their classroom experience?

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