

# Mid-Semester Feedback

Mid-semester feedback is feedback on what is going well and any issues provided by students and responded to by instructors while a course is running.

It is crucial for:

- Promoting constructive informal dialogue between instructors and students at an early stage;
- Allowing instructors to identify and respond to student concerns about a course in a timely way (ideally in a way that resolves the matter for the current cohort);
- Providing instructors with an opportunity to explain to students why the course is structured the way it is and providing a further opportunity to outline changes that have evolved in response to feedback from previous cohorts.

Importantly, existing students on the course can benefit from any actions that may be taken, which helps to reinforce to students the value of giving feedback.

## Possible Questions

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1. What aspects of this course are most effective in helping you learn?
  2. What changes could be made to this course to better help you learn?
  3. What have you done so far this semester that is helping you learn in this course?
  4. What else could you do to help you learn in this course?
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**The Students Assessing Teaching and Learning (SATAL) program can save you time.**

## **SATAL staff will ...**

- Create the conditions for receiving worthwhile feedback. They introduce the mid-semester feedback, explaining that instructors care about their teaching and student learning and how the findings will be used.
- Help students provide good responses by clarifying questions and alleviating some of the anxiety students may feel when completing an assessment while the course is still in progress.
- Collect and organize the results by noting common themes from the findings and grouping the responses into categories.
- Provide a visual summary of the findings and keep numerical track of each question or emerging theme.
- Meet with you to consider possible changes and provide their perspectives.

## Instructors will ...

- Share what you have learned with students
- Acknowledge parts of the course that are going well.
- Discuss suggested changes you plan to enact
- Discuss suggested changes and why you do not plan to enact or cannot enact them.
- Enact the changes and see how they go!

| What students say ...   | What instructors say ...   |
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| <p>“These changes have impacted my academic success and promoted my engagement in this course by implementing interactive questions. I know more on the exam because we review topics. This has improved my performance.”</p> <p>“They [implemented changes] definitely made us come to class much more often. They also made us more engaged in the lecture.”</p> <p>“I have been more engaged in class by participating in the embedded lecture questions, so I stay concentrated and on topic which has allowed me to have a higher grade on assignments and exams. I understand the material better in class because we are given time to discuss with others.”</p> | <p>"It has been really helpful to hear unfiltered yet thoughtful responses from my students. I like that students had a chance to talk to each other in groups about the feedback before they write it down, which made it a lot more meaningful. Based on students' responses about how much they enjoyed discussions, I tried to focus more time in the latter half of the semester on more discussions in class. This semester, I will be incorporating more relevant readings based on the feedback from the students. Students mentioned at the end of the semester how the readings assigned during the latter half of the semester were much more useful. I would love to get together early on in the semester to design some course specific questions to be asked during the mid-semester feedback.”</p> |

## Resources:

Colorado School of Mines: <https://trefnycenter.mines.edu/midcourse-feedback/>

Purdue University [https://www.pfw.edu/offices/enhancement-learning-teaching/educational-technology/documents/Brightspace-Doc/Communication-and-Engagement/240703\\_Mid\\_Semester\\_Feedback\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.pfw.edu/offices/enhancement-learning-teaching/educational-technology/documents/Brightspace-Doc/Communication-and-Engagement/240703_Mid_Semester_Feedback_Guide.pdf)

Western Michigan University <https://wmich.edu/x/teaching-learning/teaching-resources/midterm-evaluation-surveys>