

CPD Course Evaluations in the Time of Covid-19

A synopsis of information presented by Dr. Rucha Ambikar

The American Association for Colleges and Universities (AACU) suggests that traditional course evaluations are not appropriate at this time due to:

- Faculty did not plan to teach this way
- Faculty may not be skilled in teaching this way
- Challenges with technology may be beyond anybody's control

However, formative questions may be useful (ask what worked and what didn't).

Consider messaging clearly to students that these are unusual times and this evaluation is not business as usual:

This has been an unusually difficult semester for students, professors, staff and administrators. We are aware that you may not have chosen the largely online delivery of class material; or that you may not have performed your best due to other pressures on your time. However, this end of semester feedback process will help us plan better for the upcoming semester and meet student needs better.

Before writing a course evaluation, ask yourself the following:

- *What do I want to know that will make **me** a better instructor?
- *What do I want to know that will allow **students** to have a better experience in my class?

Don't ask what you don't need to know, "Did the professor grade your assignments on time?". If you know it took too long to get assignments graded, don't ask the question; just make plans to solve this problem in the future!



Below are a few suggestions for types of questions you might ask.

Keep in mind, try for 20 questions or less!

Focus on student experience, self-care, and self-assessment

Were you able to devote sufficient time to succeed in this class?

Were you able to pay attention to/take care of your own emotional well-being?

Did you have enough resources to take care of your own mental health needs if required?

Did you develop greater compassion for people different from yourself?

What barriers to learning did you face?

Were students able to self-regulate their time?

What barriers to personal wellbeing did you face?

Focus on course flexibility

Did professors provide you with materials in diverse formats?

Was the class structured in a way that allowed you sufficient time to access materials?

Was the class structured in a way that allowed you sufficient time to do assignment?

If asked, was your professor sufficiently flexible about assignments and deadlines?

Was sufficient flexibility offered?

Focus on student needs – accessibility/accommodation

Did you have all the necessary equipment and internet connection?

Were you able to find a place to do class work in?

Did you prefer synchronous or asynchronous classes?

Did you prefer fixed deadlines or self-directed class work?

Among the instructional methods used in class which ones did you find best matched to your learning style?

Were sufficient resources provided?

Were things easy to find online?

Were the professors sufficiently available for communication?

If possible, include open-ended questions

Is there anything you would like me to know about your challenges or struggles that I might be able to adjust for, in the future?

If you would like to make an additional comment for this course, especially given the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19 this semester, please do so.



For additional information, including references, please consult the full PowerPoint presentation and/or the Zoom video webinar found on the CPD website.