

Custom Report Distribution Percentile Rank Statistics Comments

this past semester(2016/Summer) North Campus
 See all eval periods TTU Sample Course for Electronic Evals
 All courses See all instructors
 TTU 2016 001 2016/Summer See all course levels / types / traits

There were: 18 possible respondents.

Customize

Question Text	N	Avg	TTU Avg	Div Avg	Sch Avg	Str Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Str Disagr
1 Course Objectives	12	3.17	3.89	3.89	3.89	17%	25%	33%	8%	17%
						Str Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Str Disagr
2 Instructor Effectiveness	12	3.75	3.44	3.44	3.44	42%	17%	25%	8%	8%
						Str Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Str Disagr
3 Valuable Learning Experience	12	3.17	3.33	3.33	3.33	25%	8%	42%	8%	17%

SmartEvals: Electronic and Efficient

As many of you now know, Texas Tech University has decided to make big changes to the way course evaluations will be conducted in the future. Instead of passing out in-class paper evaluations at the end of each semester, electronic evaluations will be used to obtain student feedback.

A new software, SmartEvals, was purchased and approved for use by a committee of administrators and faculty. This software includes “cutting-edge” technology that will provide flexibility and customization to the course evaluation process. Easy to read and interpret charts, graphs and reports will help provide feedback to instructors to improve their performance.

SmartEvals will increase the overall efficiency of our course evaluation process in several ways. First, by eliminating the need to scan each evaluation we will decrease the amount of time it takes for faculty to get feedback. Once the student completes their evaluation it is saved to the SmartEvals database and then included in charts and graphs that are ready to be released weeks sooner than before. This means that administrators and faculty will no longer have to wait several weeks, or even months, to receive faculty scores and comments. Not only will time spent on course evaluations be decreased, but it will also reduce the amount of money spent since we will no

longer have to purchase and scan thousands of paper forms.

However, SmartEvals is not just more efficient for administration and faculty, but also provides benefits for students. Unlike paper forms, which had to be completed on a certain day in class, the electronic evaluations can be completed anywhere using several different devices. About two weeks before the end of each semester students will receive an email notifying them that the evaluation process has been opened.

During the next two weeks, students will receive periodic reminders from both the university and their professor to complete the evaluation. These reminders can be sent via email or through Blackboard (if applicable). Faculty involvement will be very important to the success of this process,

as studies show that students’ response rates increase when their professors are involved in reminding them to complete the evaluations.

So when can you expect to see SmartEvals in your own courses? We began the pilot process during Summer I with only one course and expanded to about twelve courses in Summer II. Going forward, we plan to increase the number of participants each semester until we reach university-wide integration. We appreciate your patience as we continue our trial process and look forward to obtaining your support and participation in the future.



DID YOU KNOW...

Each year, Texas Tech University purchases about 325,000 paper course evaluation forms.

SmartEvals Faculty Feedback

Although the Department of Institutional Research has had several months to prepare for the changes to the evaluation process, we are still learning new things and making adjustments. In order to make these adjustments, we rely on the feedback of administrators, faculty and students during our pilot process.

A recent survey of faculty that participated in the summer pilot had a lot of positive feedback, with several professors claiming they like the new process more than the current paper evaluation system.

"I found the SmartEvals format better for my classes than the traditional paper method," said Gretchen Adams, an associate professor in Tech's Department of History. "The new electronic process saved time that could be better spent on content."

Adams also said that her students liked the method and she was not the only one who felt this way. However, there are also some concerns about students using SmartEvals.

"It may be difficult for students to take time outside of class for one more thing to do," said Dianne Anderson, an instructor in Tech's Rawls College of Business.

Nevertheless, the majority of faculty were pleased with SmartEvals and the ability to get feedback sooner.

"I liked using the SmartEvals system. It was easy for both the students and myself," said Catherine Morelock, an assistant professor in Tech's Department of Community, Family and Addiction Sciences. "The ability to access student feedback closer to the end of the semester is also a huge plus."

Online Data Request

Have a request for data that you could not find online? Our [Online Data Request Form](#) will make it easy for you to request what you need.

Coming Up

Fall 2016 Enrollment Statistics

Each year we collect enrollment statistics and publish them on several different platforms. Our next newsletter will include this data, as well as show the growth of Texas Tech over the past 20 years.

Meet the Staff: Kerri Ford

If anyone on the IR staff knows how much time and money paper evaluations take it is Kerri Ford. Although her official title has changed during the 12 years she has been with the Department of Institutional Research, Kerri has been a part of the evaluation process the entire time. As a Unit Coordinator of Alumni Surveys, Course Evaluations, Fact Sheets, Dept. Business Operations and General Institutional Research duties, Kerri usually has her hands full with a variety of tasks but most recently she has added the new electronic course evaluations, SmartEvals, to her list.



Kerri believes that SmartEvals will have unique benefits for each type of person involved. Specifically, it will be easier for students to complete, allow faculty to personally convey the importance of evaluations to students, and reduce a lot of stress for departmental administration that currently has to manually sort boxes of paper evaluations. As the SmartEvals testing process expands to include more courses, Kerri anticipates dedicating a lot more of her workday to making sure that it runs smoothly.

"It is going to be a challenge to figure out how unique sections are going to be handled as we increase the pilot groups," said Kerri. "I expect a lot more of my time will be spent on SmartEvals as we get the process fully implemented."

When she is not working on her various tasks at Texas Tech, Kerri likes to spend most of her time following her son, Benton, to his many baseball games. However, she also serves as a coordinator for the Lazarus Rescue Foundation where she helps find homes and coordinates wellness for unwanted, sick or orphaned cats. She also wanted to let everyone know that if anyone is willing to serve as a foster home, she would love to recruit you.

Everyone at IR can agree that Kerri's willingness to help any person (or cat) in need is just one way she is a valuable asset at IR.

