

Early Feedback on Teaching at Texas A&M University:

The Early Feedback opportunity for Spring semester 2017 is coming up – see the dates below.

Early feedback selection deadline	02/10/2017 5:00:00 PM
Early feedback period begins	02/11/2017 12:00:00 AM
Early feedback period ends	02/19/2017 11:59:59 PM
Early feedback results displayed	02/20/2017 1:00:00 PM

Note the deadline for selecting items for Spring Early Feedback form is 02/10/2017. To set up your appraisal, visit <http://pica.tamu.edu>. For assistance, contact Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation, at PICA@tamu.edu.

What is Early Feedback?

Early Feedback is an opportunity for faculty to get feedback from students about their experience in a course early in the semester. It is a formative assessment opportunity with results available only to the faculty member to assist with enhancement of teaching practice. This contrasts with end of term evaluations which are summative assessment and are also available to the department head.

Why do Early Feedback?

Early Feedback allows faculty to find out about the student experience in their course – and provides the students an opportunity to influence that experience - early in the term, when there is time to make adjustments.

How is Early Feedback conducted?

The appraisal is conducted online using the TAMU PICA system.

What questions are asked for Early Feedback?

Faculty members can use the same questions that are on the end of term evaluations or add/change questions using the PICA question database.

What do I tell my students about Early Feedback?

It is strongly recommended that faculty tell students they are participating in Early Feedback and emphasize that they want and are looking forward to seeing student feedback. Faculty enthusiasm for the process can positively impact response rates. For information about talking to your students about their feedback – see “***Once I have my Early Feedback data, what is the next step?***” below.

How can I participate in Early Feedback?

Go to <http://pica.tamu.edu> and follow the instructions provided. You can set your Early Feedback appraisal to be the same as your end of term appraisal or you can alter the appraisal – selecting new or additional questions about which you would like feedback. If you have questions about setting up your appraisal in the PICA system – contact Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation, at PICA@tamu.edu.

Once Early Feedback opens on 02/10/2017 – PICA will send a reminder email to your students. Studies show it is a good idea for faculty to remind students about the Early Feedback opportunity and emphasize their interest in student feedback. To increase response rate, consider allowing time in class for students to complete Early Feedback on their laptop, tablet, or smart phone. This link <http://pica.tamu.edu> or the QR code below will take them to the PICA student login page. Instructors can email the link and code to students or display them on a power point slide during class.



Early Feedback will close on 02/19/2017. Data will be made available to participating faculty on 02/20/2017 at 1 p.m. within the PICA system. Plan to talk with your students about the data in class the week of 02/20/2017 to maximize benefits of the process.

Once I have my Early Feedback data, what is the next step?

Once the results are available, it is recommended that faculty talk briefly with the class about what was learned from Early Feedback. The ability to make adjustments to the course early in response to student feedback can remove impediments to learning and increase student engagement both of which positively impact the learning environment and can have

implications for end of semester feedback (Troy, 2011). Evidence suggests including peer or instructional consultant feedback on the Early Feedback results increases the likelihood of better end of term evaluations (Cohen, 1980). Scheduling time to reflect on the results with a peer or an Instructional Consultant at the Center for Teaching Excellence cte@tamu.edu has the added benefit of providing faculty members with valuable data and documentation of peer review of teaching.

For more information about evaluations at TAMU, including the guide “Talk to students about evaluations” – visit <http://assessment.tamu.edu/assessment/media/Course-Evaluation/Increasing-ratings.pdf>.

Who are the contacts for assistance with Early Feedback?

For assistance with setting up PICA Early Feedback – Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation at PICA@tamu.edu.

For questions about debriefing Early Feedback results with students or ways to respond to feedback, contact Jean Layne, Center for Teaching Excellence – jlayne@tamu.edu.

References:

Cohen, P. A. (1980). Effectiveness of student-rating feedback for improving college instruction: A meta-analysis of findings. *Research in Higher Education*, 13, 321-341.

Troy, M (2011). How to increase your course evaluations.

<http://assessment.tamu.edu/assessment/media/Course-Evaluation/Increasing-ratings.pdf>

Accessed 02/08/2016.