Electronic Course Evaluations (ECE)

Questions/Answers for Students

1. What is the ECE- electronic course evaluation?
   a. The ECE is a web-based survey asking students questions about their course, classroom and instructor.

2. Why should I complete a course evaluation survey for each of my courses?
   a. The evaluations provide students an opportunity to give valuable feedback to their instructors so they can create better learning environments for students. Also, academic departments use student feedback to update and improve the degree programs.

3. Do instructors actually look at the students’ responses and comments?
   a. Yes! Instructors read and care about what students report on the evaluations. Your feedback helps instructors in revising their teaching methods, changing textbooks, revising assignments, and making other changes to help students learn.

4. Will my grades be affected?
   a. Student course evaluations have NO impact on your grades! Instructors do not get to view any of the results until after final grades are submitted. Additionally, all responses are completely anonymous (i.e. all responses are separated from a student’s log-in name).
   b. Completing the evaluation is voluntary, but they are your one opportunity to have a voice and impact the quality of teaching and learning. Sometimes special incentives will be given to students who complete the evaluation (i.e. raffles).

5. When will I be able to complete the Electronic Course Evaluation (ECE)?
   a. Toward the end of your course, students will be asked to complete an ECE for each course. You will have 2-3 weeks to complete the evaluation on a computer, laptop, or mobile device.

6. How do I complete the course evaluations?
   a. Students will receive an email (sent to your school email address: ____@maine.edu account). This email will give you instructions on how to complete the Electronic Course Evaluation (ECE), click on the link, and enter your MaineStreet username and password. Once you log-in, you will be automatically directed to a page that lists your courses, click on the course to complete the evaluation for that course. Complete an evaluation for each of the courses.
b. Another way to complete the evaluation....is to go directly to the link: https://usm.campuslabs.com/CourseEval and then enter your MaineStreet login information, your list of courses will pop up, then complete your course evaluations. You can complete the evaluations from any computer.

7. How long does it take to complete an evaluation online?
   a. On average, it will take students approximately 5-10 minutes to complete one course evaluation. It may take more time, depending upon the length and depth of any comments that you make. Thoughtful feedback is appreciated!

8. If I don’t finish an evaluation, can I complete it later?
   a. If you cannot complete the evaluation in one sitting, students can return to the ECE as long it is before the evaluation period closes. Simply log back into the system to complete your remaining course evaluations.

9. Can I still complete an evaluation after the evaluation period is over?
   a. Evaluations cannot be completed after the evaluation period, or once the deadline is passed. Evaluations should be completed as soon as possible after receiving notification of the evaluation period (i.e. there is usually a 2-3 week time period for ECE).

10. Will my responses be anonymous?
    a. Yes! Your responses are completely confidential and anonymous. Faculty will only receive a summary of all the responses for their course (no names or ID’s are attached to the responses), and only after student grades are posted.

11. If my responses are anonymous, why do I have to login?
    a. Students are required to login so that the system can determine the courses that you are enrolled in and whether an evaluation has been submitted for an enrolled course. Also, a login prevents individuals from submitting an evaluation for a course that they are not enrolled in, as well as, prevents multiple evaluations to be submitted for the same course. Once an evaluation is submitted, it cannot be traced back to the student.

12. How is my anonymity maintained?
    a. The Office of Academic Assessment office manages and stores the evaluation data. No faculty member has access to the student’s identifying data. All responses are reported in an aggregate way, because the online system is designed so that when students submit an evaluation, their personal information is severed from their responses.

*Any other questions?....please contact the Office of Academic Assessment, 207-780-4383, or email: usmcourseevaluations@usm.maine.edu.