

Student Ratings at SU: Information for Students

At the end of each course, students are typically provided with an opportunity to offer their feedback about the course and instructor through the student ratings process. Most departments on campus have their student ratings collected by the University's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA). This document answers some of the most common questions students have about the student ratings process.

Why does the University collect student ratings?

Student ratings are the primary method on campus for faculty to hear from students about what they like and do not like in their courses. Faculty may use student feedback to modify their course content, change their pedagogical approach, and inform their strategies for improving their courses.

Academic departments and schools/colleges use student ratings data when instructors are being considered for tenure and/or promotion.

How are student ratings collected?

The method of collecting student ratings is determined by the department offering the course. Most departments use the online student rating system, which is a web-based system that allows students to complete their student ratings through any web client. Some departments administer student ratings in class, using paper forms.

When are student ratings collected?

For full-term courses using the online system, the student rating system is open to students during the final week of classes and through the end of finals. Administration of online student ratings for partial-term courses is determined by the specific schedule of the course, but will usually be during the last week of the course and the following week.

Courses using the paper system typically have the forms distributed and collected at the end of the final class meeting, but the instructor may choose to administer the process at another time.

How do I access my online student ratings forms?

On the day that the system opens, you will receive an e-mail from each department in which you are taking a course that is using the online system. In that e-mail is a link to the online student rating site and your unique passcode for the current semester. Please note that this passcode is for your use only, as it will allow you to access the student rating forms for the specific courses that you are taking. Each passcode is also unique to each semester, so you will be provided with a new passcode each term.

What if I delete my student rating invitation e-mail?

You can go to <http://aaf-ratings.syr.edu/SR/passcode.asp> to get a passcode reminder sent to you.

Do I have to complete all of my online student ratings at once?

No, you can complete some of your forms and leave others to be completed at another time. You can also leave in the middle of completing a form and come back to it later. However, once you click the Submit button on a form, you will not be able to access it again.

What happens after the forms are completed?

All student rating forms are processed by OIRA. Paper forms are scanned at OIRA and uploaded into a database. Online data are entered directly into the database. After the system is closed, OIRA provides departments with summary reports of the quantitative items, both aggregated across all of the department's courses and for each individual course. Faculty members receive summary data reports for each of their courses.

Paper forms are returned to the departments after they have been scanned so that faculty members and department administrators may view the open-ended comments, which are not transcribed by OIRA.

Responses to open-ended questions in online forms are aggregated into class-level reports and then provided to faculty members and department administrators.

Can faculty members tell which students gave them specific ratings and/or comments?

All student ratings data are confidential. The identity of specific respondents is not made known to department administrators or faculty members.