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Annual Overview - 2015 Course Evaluations

UNO Office of Institutional Effectiveness
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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University of Nebraska at Omaha: 2015 Course Evaluations

Overall

The University of Nebraska at Omaha completed implementation of the Automated Course Evaluation (ACE) system in Spring 2015. This report represents data from Spring, Summer, and Fall 2015 for courses delivered at UNO; additional reports will be announced as further analyses are completed. Across all terms, the evaluation process included 1,472 instructors and 5,119 courses. Students completed 64,101 out of 117,339 evaluations requested – a 54.63% response rate (see Table 1 for additional descriptive statistics).

Table 1.

Statistics for 2015 Course Evaluations		Term			
		Spring	Summer	Fall	All Terms
Responses	Evaluation Invitations (count)	49,434	12,561	55,344	117,339
	Evaluations Submitted (count)	27,959	5,380	30,762	64,101
	Average Response Rate (%)	56.56%	42.83%	55.58%	54.63%
Unduplicated Instructors	Count	1,103	491	1,149	1,472
	Average (all questions)	4.18	4.26	4.16	4.18
	Average (Q31)	4.13	4.24	4.13	4.14
Unduplicated Courses	Count	1,141	460	1,147	1,705
	Average (all questions)	4.18	4.26	4.16	4.18
	Average (Q30)	4.00	4.14	4.00	4.01

Q30: Compared with other courses I have taken at UNO, this course is...

Q31: Compared with other instructors I have had at UNO, this instructor is...

Instructor Response Rates

The analysis used all course averages for an instructor to calculate an average response rate. Average response rates fail to adequately illustrate relative response rates between instructors. To better demonstrate the distribution of response rates among instructors, Table 2 organizes response rates by percentiles. For instance, 97.50% of all instructors had a response rate higher than 28.95%; 90.00% of all instructors obtained a response rate lower than 80.00%

Table 2.

Instructor Response Rate Percentiles								
Percentile	2.5	5 th	10 th	25 th	50 th	75 th	90 th	97.5
Response Rate	28.95%	33.33%	38.79%	45.92%	54.35%	67.32%	80.00%	93.64%

* Only includes courses with ≥ 5 students

Distinguishing between Lower and Higher Rated Instructors and Courses

UNO course evaluation scores reflect a bias towards the positive end of the rating scale. Consequently, students rarely rate instructors negatively. The skewed results make it difficult to discern between the highest and lowest rated instructors and courses based on averages alone.

Further, non-normal data prevents the use of standard deviations to approximate the distribution of scores.

As an alternative approach for increasing the discriminatory power of the data, cut-off scores were calculated for the 2.5 and 97.5 percentiles for all instructors and courses (see Table 3). This permits reviewers to identify when scores for a particular question reflect an exceptionally low or high rating. In Table 3, consider for example, question 25: “Feedback on examinations/graded material was valuable.” For instructors, the 2.5 percentile cut-off is 3.00 and the 97.5 percentile cut-off is 4.82. Students rating an instructor below 3.00 on this question have scored the instructor lower than 97.5% of all other teachers. Similarly, an instructor whose rating exceeds 4.82 has an average score higher than 97.5% of all instructors.

By using the difference between the averages of the extreme groups and majority, one can more readily identify which questions best distinguish between lower/higher rated instructors and courses (see red and blue cells in Table 3). It appears that students tend to score lower rated instructors and courses more harshly on questions in the *Enthusiasm, Organization, and Overall* domains. Conversely, higher rated instructors and courses tend to receive more favorable ratings from students on questions in the *Enthusiasm, Assessment & Evaluation, Assignments, and Overall* domains. Figures 1 and 2 provide a visual display of the differences between questions/domains by percentile group for instructors and courses. The results suggest that students are especially sensitive to faculty members’ ability to engage them in class, facilitate their understanding of the course material, provide helpful feedback on exams/graded materials, and assign valuable reading and homework.

Table 3.

2015 Course Evaluation (All Terms)			Instructors				Courses			
Evaluation Scores by Question at the 2.5 and 97.5 Percentiles			2.5	$B_{avg} - M_{avg}$	97.5	$T_{avg} - M_{avg}$	2.5	$B_{avg} - M_{avg}$	97.5	$T_{avg} - M_{avg}$
Q#	Domain	Question (Scale: (1) Strongly Disagree to (5) Strongly Agree)								
1	Learning	I found this course intellectually challenging and stimulating.	3.15	-0.85	4.83	0.68	3.29	-1.05	5.00	0.69
2		I learned something that I consider valuable.	3.44	-0.90	4.94	0.60	3.40	-1.12	5.00	0.59
3		My interest in the subject increased as a consequence of this course.	2.95	-1.11	4.82	0.79	3.00	-1.23	5.00	0.80
4		I learned and understood the subject materials of this course.	3.32	-0.94	4.85	0.67	3.33	-1.00	5.00	0.69
5	Enthusiasm	Instructor was enthusiastic about teaching this course.	3.27	-1.22	5.00	0.59	3.31	-1.37	5.00	0.56
6		Instructor was dynamic and energetic in conducting the course.	3.04	-1.39	5.00	0.69	3.03	-1.51	5.00	0.65
7		Instructor enhanced presentations with use of humor.	2.90	-1.35	5.00	0.74	2.91	-1.42	5.00	0.72
8		Instructor's style of presentation held my interest during course.	2.62	-1.61	4.94	0.89	2.60	-1.74	5.00	0.83
9	Organization	Instructor's explanations were clear.	2.76	-1.61	4.80	0.77	2.72	-1.69	5.00	0.76
10		Instructor's materials were well prepared and carefully explained.	2.87	-1.59	4.81	0.72	2.86	-1.62	5.00	0.76
11		Proposed objectives agreed with those actually taught so I knew where the course was going.	3.15	-1.29	4.86	0.69	3.00	-1.57	5.00	0.70
12		Instructor's presentation facilitated my organization of content.	3.00	-1.43	4.84	0.78	2.78	-1.65	5.00	0.79
13	Group Interaction	Students were encouraged to participate in course discussions.	3.31	-0.94	5.00	0.58	3.31	-1.11	5.00	0.54
14		Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.	3.35	-0.98	5.00	0.58	3.35	-1.12	5.00	0.55
15		Students were encouraged to ask questions and were given meaningful answers.	3.39	-1.21	5.00	0.57	3.33	-1.30	5.00	0.55
16		Students were encouraged to express their own ideas and/or question the instructor.	3.35	-1.08	5.00	0.60	3.27	-1.27	5.00	0.58
17	Individual Rapport	Instructor was friendly towards individual students.	3.54	-0.89	5.00	0.51	3.41	-1.09	5.00	0.51
18		Instructor made students feel welcome in seeking help/advice.	3.39	-1.09	5.00	0.55	3.29	-1.33	5.00	0.54
19		Instructor had a genuine interest in individual students.	3.29	-1.14	5.00	0.63	3.25	-1.25	5.00	0.59
20		Instructor was adequately accessible to students.	3.31	-1.11	4.93	0.60	3.25	-1.36	5.00	0.60
21	Breadth	Instructor contrasted the implications of various theories.	3.28	-1.03	4.81	0.70	3.22	-1.19	5.00	0.69
22		Instructor presented the background or origin of ideas/concepts developed.	3.33	-1.07	4.83	0.65	3.27	-1.20	5.00	0.64
23		Instructor presented points of view other than his/her own when appropriate.	3.36	-1.01	4.84	0.65	3.27	-1.25	5.00	0.65
24		Instructor adequately discussed current developments in the field.	3.31	-1.06	4.88	0.63	3.29	-1.21	5.00	0.64
25	Assessment & Evaluation	Feedback on examinations/graded material was valuable.	3.00	-1.22	4.82	0.71	2.98	-1.34	5.00	0.84
26		Methods of evaluating student work were fair and appropriate.	3.19	-1.16	4.86	0.66	3.00	-1.34	5.00	0.77
27		Examinations/graded materials tested course content as emphasized by the instructor.	3.29	-1.09	4.83	0.58	3.16	-1.39	5.00	0.72
28	Assignments	Required reading/texts were valuable.	3.10	-0.76	4.75	0.75	3.00	-1.09	5.00	0.87
29		Readings, homework, laboratories contributed to appreciation and understanding of the subject.	3.25	-0.89	4.83	0.67	3.17	-1.16	5.00	0.74
30	Overall	Compared with other courses I have taken at UNO, this course is... (very poor to very good)	2.80	-1.47	4.85	0.82	2.82	-1.52	5.00	0.84
31		Compared with other instructors I have had at UNO, this instructor is... (very poor to very good)	2.82	-1.67	4.96	0.73	2.88	-1.65	5.00	0.73

Column Labels Key:

2.5: Cut-off score for the 2.5 percentile. Scores below this number are in the bottom 2.5% of instructors or courses.
 97.5: Cut-off score for the 97.5 percentile. Scores above this number are in the top 2.5% of instructors or courses.

B_{avg} = Average of all scores in the bottom 2.5%.

M_{avg} = Average of all scores in the middle 95%.

T_{avg} = Average of all scores in the top 2.5%.

 - Largest differences between scores of instructors or courses in the bottom 2.5% and middle 95%.


 - Largest differences between scores of instructors or courses in the top 2.5% and middle 95%.

Figure 1.

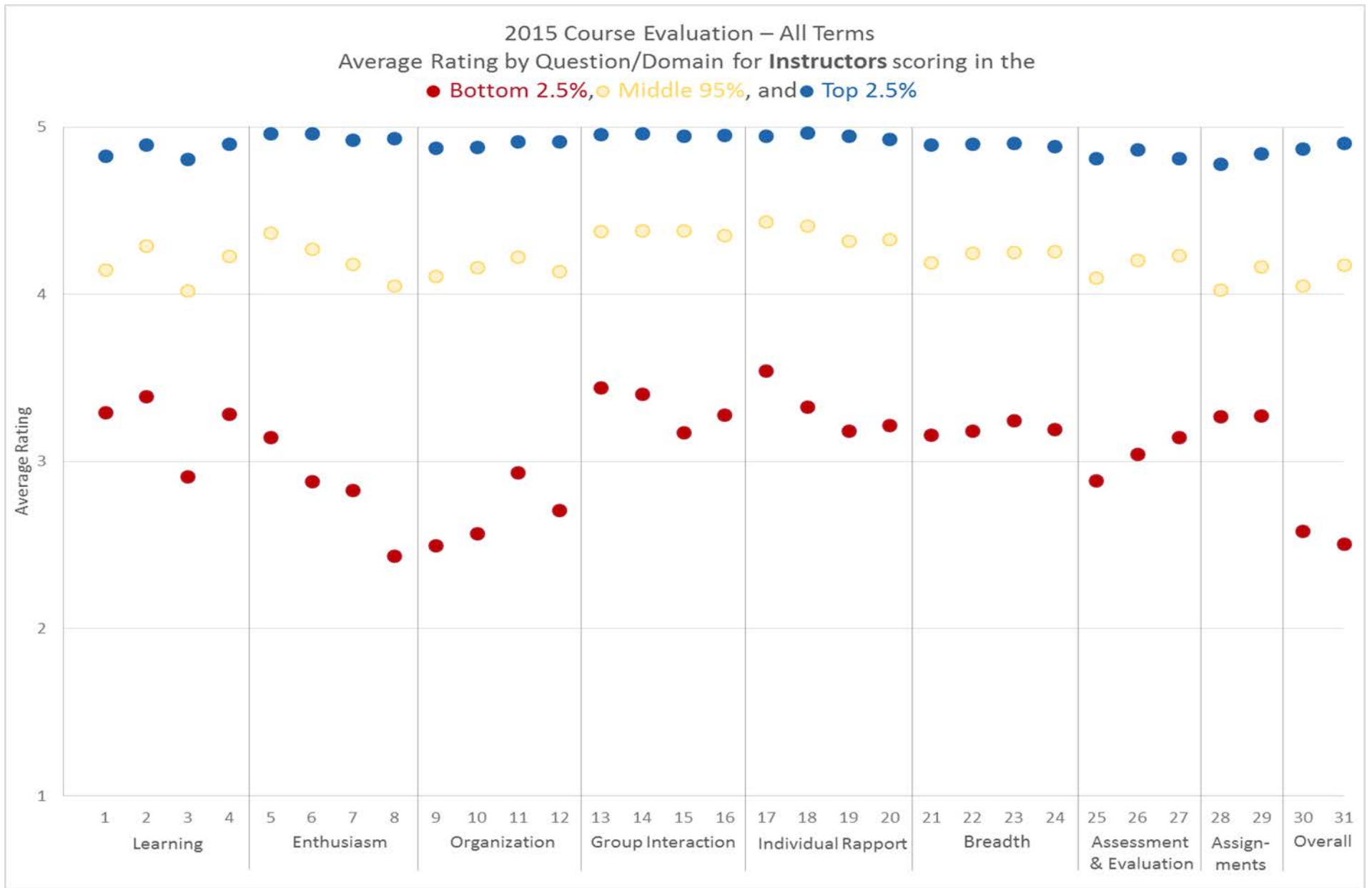


Figure 2.

