



## **Course Evaluations Academic Year: 2008-2009**

This academic year, course evaluations for classroom-based and online undergraduate and graduate classes (class sections 1000-1999) excluding courses offered in the Schools of Dentistry and Law, as well as all co-ops, discussion sections, independent study, individual research, internships, lab sections, thesis hours, dissertation, practica, etc. will be collected online. Students will evaluate classes using a standardized course evaluation instrument in the Marquette Online Course Evaluation System (MOCES).

The instrument used in MOCES consists of 15 objective questions and 1 open-ended student comment question. The instrument contains the 4 general questions used for faculty evaluation since spring 2005 and 12 items obtained via factor analysis of several semesters of Marquette student responses to IAS, Form X items.

This year-long MOCES project is a final step in determining the feasibility, validity and effectiveness of administering course evaluations online at Marquette. Some important topics to consider as we proceed with this project are:

- ❖ The School of Dentistry has successfully conducted online course evaluations for six years.
- ❖ A pilot of MOCES was conducted spring term 2008 for all courses in four departments, (biomedical sciences, civil & environmental engineering, journalism, theology), spanning four colleges (health sciences, engineering, communication, arts & sciences) and offering a variety of class sizes. A total of 124 course sections with a total student enrollment of 3,837 were evaluated online by students. MOCES performed well with strong student satisfaction.
- ❖ Students will receive information on using MOCES in an email sent to their Emarq/Checkmarq email address, in the student newspaper and in class.
- ❖ Instructions detailing how faculty can access their course evaluations will be posted to the MOCES homepage at [www.marquette.edu/oira/ceval](http://www.marquette.edu/oira/ceval) . Several demonstrations open to all faculty will be held in early November.
- ❖ At the end of this academic year OIRA will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of online course evaluations.

## Rationale for Using Online Course Evaluations

Course evaluations at Marquette have been completed on the paper IAS, Form X for the past seven semesters. Although the instrument is strong there have been difficulties in the administration of the IAS at Marquette. Many of these would occur with any paper administration: long time lags before faculty receive results; substantial staff time devoted to processing the forms; the errors introduced by so many sorting steps; the environmental impact of 40,000 sheets of paper every term; and the considerable fees to the University of Washington for forms, scanning, and reporting.

As robust on-line systems have been developed, the use of the web to administer student course evaluations has quickly become standard across the country. The advantages are considerable including flexibility of forms for different disciplines and types of instruction, immediate results, elimination of clerical staff time, a greener approach, and cutting costs per semester by one half.

## AY 2008-2009 Course Evaluation Details

1. Every undergraduate and graduate class (class sections 1000-1999), taught by full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and teaching assistants, excluding courses offered in the Schools of Dentistry and Law, as well as all co-ops, discussion sections, independent study, individual research, internships, lab sections, thesis hours, dissertation, practica, etc. will be evaluated online each semester.
2. All course evaluation forms will contain the four general questions used for faculty annual evaluation and promotion and tenure over the past three years.
4. Course summary reports and student comments for each course taught will be available to faculty shortly after all course grades have been submitted to the registrar.
5. As with the IAS ratings, department chairs will have access to the course summary reports and student comments for instructors and courses in their departments. Deans will receive a Dean's Summary Report for their college containing mean ratings on the four general items by course and by faculty member.

If you have any questions about using MOCES or this document please contact Dr. Gary Levy, Assoc. Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment, phone 8-7906 or Dr. Peggy Bloom, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Teaching, phone 8-7780.