

# Use Survey Statistics to Improve Learning

Here are specific ways an instructor can use survey statistics to improve student learning:

## Gauge student understanding:

- **Content comprehension:** Surveys can ask students about their level of understanding of specific topics. Low comprehension scores might indicate a need for reteaching, providing additional resources, or offering alternative explanations.
- **Engagement:** Surveys can assess student engagement with the course material, teaching methods, and classroom activities. Disengagement could prompt the instructor to incorporate more interactive activities, use real-world examples, or vary instructional techniques.
- **Learning preferences:** Surveys can explore student learning preferences. Do they prefer lectures, group discussions, hands-on activities, or other methods? This information can help instructors tailor their teaching style to better suit the needs of the class.

## Improve the learning environment:

- **Course workload:** Surveys can gauge student perceptions of workload. Feeling overwhelmed might indicate a need to adjust deadlines, offer alternative assignments, or provide better time management strategies.
- **Classroom climate:** Surveys can assess student comfort levels in the classroom. Are they hesitant to participate in discussions? Do they feel supported by peers and the instructor? Unfavorable responses suggest a need to promote a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.
- **Accessibility:** Surveys can identify accessibility concerns related to materials, instructions, or classroom technology. This can help instructors find alternative formats or provide additional support.

## Enhance course design:

- **Course content:** Surveys can ask about the relevance and usefulness of specific course content. Low ratings might indicate a need to revise the material to be more engaging or connect better to real-world applications.
- **Textbook/assignments:** Surveys can assess student feedback on the textbook, assignments, and other learning materials. This can help instructors choose more effective resources or modify existing ones.
- **Assessment methods:** Surveys can explore student perceptions of assessments. Feeling unprepared or overwhelmed could indicate a need to clarify expectations, provide more practice opportunities, or adjust assessment formats.

Remember, it's important to design surveys effectively. Use clear, concise questions and a mix of open-ended and closed-ended formats to gather both specific and nuanced feedback.

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**NOTE:** The information in this document was written by Google's Gemini AI using the prompt: "Please give me specific ways an instructor can use survey statistics to improve student learning" (26 June 2024). Credit: [Gray Area](#)