

The IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction Group Summary Report

The IDEA Center
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Biological Sciences/Life Sciences IDEA Group Summary Report

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10	VII. Additional Questions <i>Provides frequencies, averages, and standard deviations for additional questions that are common for this unit (if requested).</i>

Report includes classes from the following term(s): Dec. 1, 2001 to Aug. 31, 2003

Number of Classes Processed:	Number of Classes Included in Summary Report: ¹	Number of Student Responses Included:
Diagnostic Form: 3009	Diagnostic Form: 2890	Diagnostic Form: 59868
Short Form: 1887	Short Form: 1843	Short Form: 36602
Total: 4896	Total: 4733	Total: 96470

¹ Results for classes where faculty did not identify any objectives as being *Essential* or *Important* are excluded from Group Summary Reports.

Section I: Student Ratings of Overall Outcomes

Section I shows the number and percentage of classes with ratings in various ranges for the four "outcome" measures. This information summarizes the quality of instruction in this unit (as inferred from IDEA ratings).

Overall Outcome Measures:

- A.** Number of classes obtaining "Low," "Low Average," "Average," "High Average," and "High" ratings on four overall measures.
B. Average T Scores are provided for the Progress on Relevant Objective measure, while the average on the 5-point scale is provided for the other three summary measures. Scores for this report can be compared to the IDEA System.

A. Overall Outcome Measures - Total Number of Classes																
T Score Category	Progress-Relevant Objectives				Improved Student Attitude				Excellence of Teacher				Excellence of Course			
	Raw		Adjstd		Raw		Adjstd		Raw		Adjstd		Raw		Adjstd	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low (lowest 10%, 37 or lower)	282	6	326	7	367	8	504	11	485	10	491	10	421	9	554	12
Low Average (next 20%, 38-44)	580	12	684	14	641	14	729	15	560	12	594	13	641	14	728	15
Average (middle 40%, 45-55)	2160	46	2290	48	1885	40	1956	41	1906	40	1940	41	1940	41	1945	41
High Average (next 20%, 56-62)	1252	26	1110	23	1293	27	987	21	1578	33	1394	29	1304	28	957	20
High (highest 10%, 63 or higher)	459	10	323	7	547	12	557	12	204	4	314	7	427	9	549	12
B. Overall Outcome Measures - Averages																
	T Score				5-point Scale (1=low, 5=high)											
This Summary Report	52		51		4.0		3.9		4.2		4.2		4.0		3.9	
IDEA System ¹	51		51		3.9		3.9		4.2		4.2		3.9		3.9	

Adjstd: Scores on the Diagnostic Form have been adjusted for student desire to take the course regardless of who taught it, student work habits, instructor reported class size, student effort not attributable to the instructor, and course difficulty not attributable to the instructor. Short Form scores have been adjusted for student work habits, student desire to take the course regardless of who taught it, and instructor reported class size.

T Score: A statistically derived score which makes it easy to compare various measures. Unlike raw scores that have different averages and standard deviations (variabilities), T Scores all have an average of 50 and a standard deviation of 10. This means that 40% of all T Scores will be in the range of 45-55, while less than 2% will be below 30 or above 70.

- 1. Progress on Relevant (Essential and Important) Objectives.** Because student learning is the central purpose of teaching, and because instructors chose the objectives considered by this measure, it is probably the most vital measure of effectiveness. A double weight is given to student ratings of progress on objectives instructors chose as *Essential* and a single weight to those chosen as *Important*. Objectives identified as *Minor or No Importance* were ignored in developing this measure.
- 2. Improved Student Attitude.** The table shows students' responses to the item "As a result of taking this course, I have more positive feelings toward this field of study" (Diagnostic Form item #40, Short Form item #16). This rating is most meaningful for courses that are taken by many non-majors. Most teachers hope that such students will develop a respect and appreciation for the discipline even if they choose to take no additional courses in it.
- 3. Excellence of Teacher.** This shows the average response to "Overall, I rate this instructor an excellent teacher." Overall impressions of a teacher affect student attitudes, effort, and learning (Diagnostic Form item #41, Short Form item #17).
- 4. Excellence of Course.** This shows the average response to "Overall, I rate this course as excellent" (Diagnostic Form item #42, Short Form item #18). This rating is likely determined by a number of factors (e.g., teaching style, student satisfaction with course outcomes, and characteristics such as organization, selection of readings and/or other influences).

¹Normative information and the process for adjusting scores (Diagnostic Form only) were updated on December 1, 2001. Short Form adjustments were updated on October 1, 2002.

Section II: Faculty Selection of *Essential* and *Important* Course Objectives

The following provides information about the degree to which various learning objectives are emphasized in courses. Item numbers reflect those on the Faculty Information Form. The percentages (%) reflect how often each objective was selected for classes included in this summary report. Are the goals of the program being appropriately emphasized in course sections?

	Total Number of Course Sections and Percentage	
	N	%
1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)	4467	94
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories	4182	88
3. Learning to <i>apply</i> course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)	3257	69
4. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course	2031	43
5. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team	1376	29
6. Developing creative capacities (writing, inventing, designing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.)	368	8
7. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.)	1327	28
8. Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing	1329	28
9. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems	1655	35
10. Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values	485	10
11. Learning to <i>analyze</i> and <i>critically evaluate</i> ideas, arguments, and points of view	1708	36
12. Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking my own questions and seeking answers	1806	38

Average number of objectives selected per class: 5.1

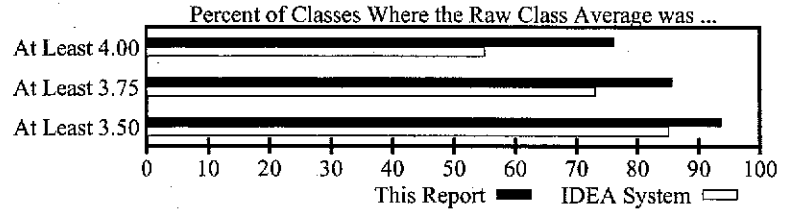
In general, it is recommended that 3-5 learning objectives be selected as *Important* or *Essential* for each class. To what degree are instructors focusing their learning objectives?

Section III: Student Ratings of Progress on Objectives Chosen as *Essential* or *Important*

Section III summarizes student ratings of progress in classes where a given objective was chosen as *Essential* or *Important* by the instructor. Results for this summary report are compared with those for the IDEA System. On which objectives do students report the most progress? The least? How do our results compare with those of the national database? Do we have apparent "strengths" and/or "weaknesses"? (Progress ratings were made on a 5-point scale; 1=low, 5=high.)

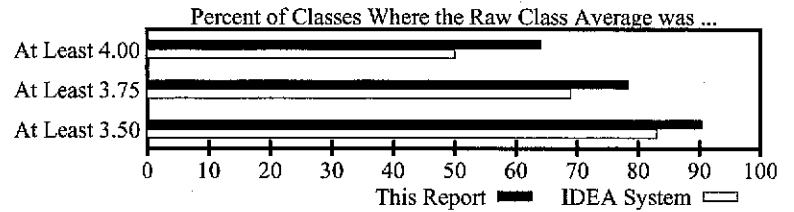
Objective 1: Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	4.2	4.1	4467
IDEA System	4.0	4.0	32007



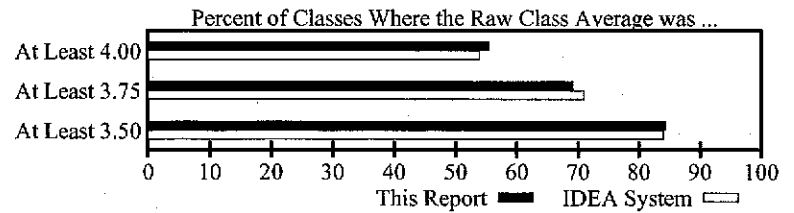
Objective 2: Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	4.1	4.0	4182
IDEA System	3.9	3.9	30353



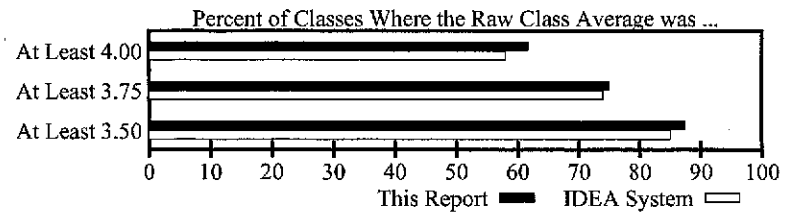
Objective 3: Learning to *apply* course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	4.0	3.9	3257
IDEA System	4.0	4.0	30437



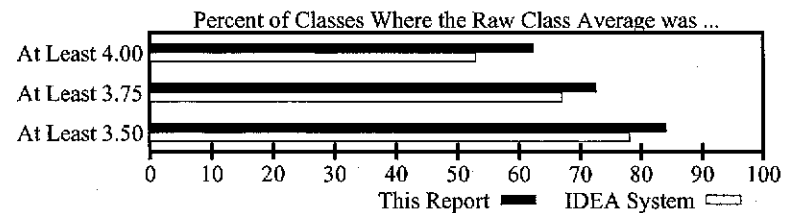
Objective 4: Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	4.1	4.0	2031
IDEA System	4.0	4.0	21532



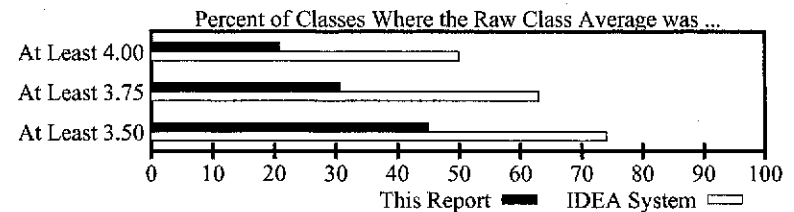
Objective 5: Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	4.0	4.0	1376
IDEA System	3.9	3.9	12125



Objective 6: Developing creative capacities (writing, inventing, designing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.)

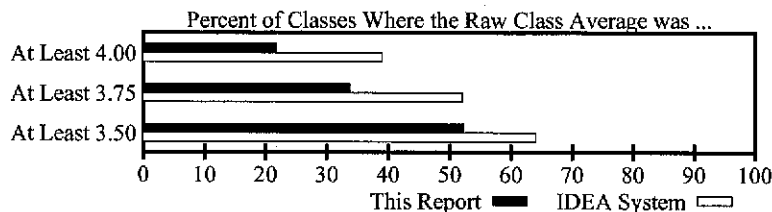
	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.3	3.3	368
IDEA System	3.9	3.9	9281



Section III: Student Ratings of Progress on Objectives Chosen as *Essential* or *Important* (Cont'd)

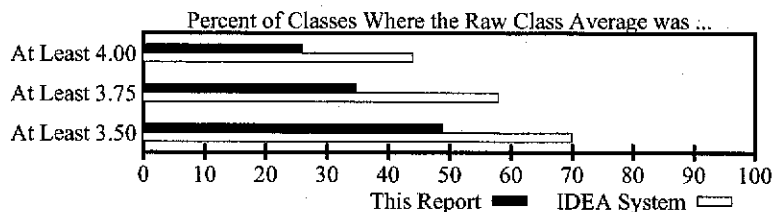
Objective 7: Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.)

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.5	3.5	1327
IDEA System	3.7	3.7	10307



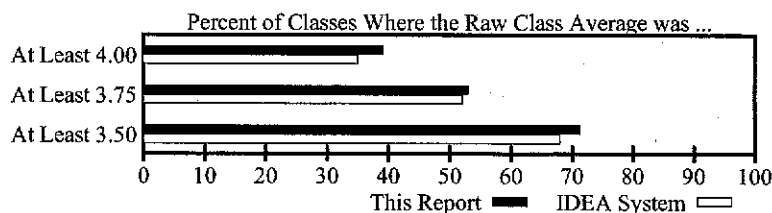
Objective 8: Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.5	3.5	1329
IDEA System	3.8	3.8	18213



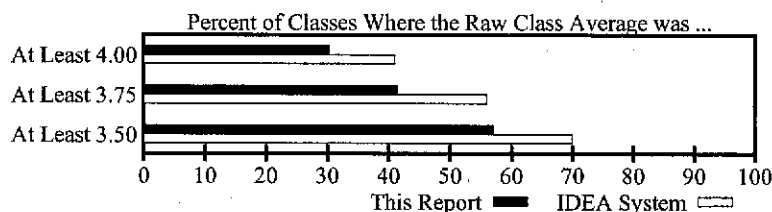
Objective 9: Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.8	3.8	1655
IDEA System	3.7	3.7	15676



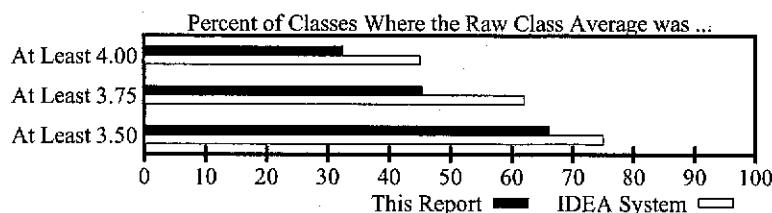
Objective 10: Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.6	3.5	485
IDEA System	3.8	3.8	8719



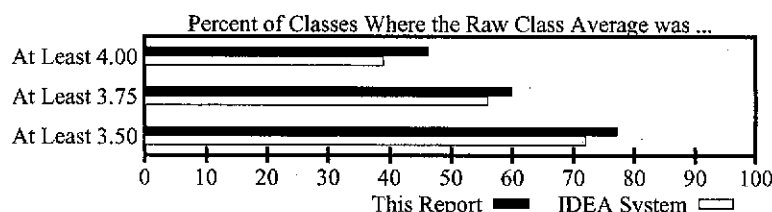
Objective 11: Learning to *analyze* and *critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.7	3.6	1708
IDEA System	3.8	3.8	18935



Objective 12: Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking my own questions and seeking answers

	Raw Avg.	Adjstd. Avg.	# of Classes
This Summary Report	3.8	3.8	1806
IDEA System	3.8	3.8	15659



Section IV: Teaching Methods and Styles

This section summarizes the frequency with which specific teaching methods were rated as "frequently" or "infrequently" used (Diagnostic Form only). Data for a given class were included *only if the teaching method was relevant* (significantly related to progress on *Important* or *Essential* objectives). This information can help identify faculty development needs (infrequent teaching methods that a number of faculty may need to consider increasing use).

Teaching Methods and Styles	No. of Classes	Avg.	s. d. ¹	% of Classes Where Method was "Infrequently" (■) or "Frequently" (□) Used
A. Stimulating Student Interest				
4. Demonstrated the importance and significance of the subject matter	2889	4.4	0.4	
8. Stimulated students to intellectual effort beyond that required by most courses	2890	4.0	0.6	
13. Introduced stimulating ideas about the subject	2890	4.1	0.6	
15. Inspired students to set and achieve goals which really challenged them	2890	3.7	0.6	
B. Fostering Student Collaboration				
5. Formed "teams" or "discussion groups" to facilitate learning	838	4.0	0.8	
16. Asked students to share ideas and experiences with others whose backgrounds and viewpoints differ from their own	1742	3.4	0.8	
18. Asked students to help each other understand ideas or concepts	1891	3.8	0.6	
C. Establishing Rapport				
1. Displayed a personal interest in students and their learning	2099	4.4	0.5	
2. Found ways to help students answer their own questions	2890	4.1	0.5	
7. Explained the reasons for criticisms of students' academic performance	2483	3.7	0.6	
20. Encouraged student-faculty interaction outside of class (office visits, phone calls, e-mail, etc.)	604	3.9	0.7	
D. Encouraging Student Involvement				
9. Encouraged students to use multiple resources (e.g. data banks, library holdings, outside experts) to improve understanding	967	3.9	0.7	
11. Related course material to real life situations	1890	4.2	0.6	
14. Involved students in "hands on" projects such as research, case studies, or "real life" activities	1334	4.0	0.8	
19. Gave projects, tests, or assignments that required original or creative thinking	1926	3.7	0.7	
E. Structuring Classroom Experiences				
3. Scheduled course work (class activities, tests, projects) in ways which encouraged students to stay up to date in their work	706	4.3	0.5	
6. Made it clear how each topic fit into the course	2890	4.3	0.5	
10. Explained course material clearly and concisely	2888	4.2	0.6	
12. Gave tests, projects, etc. that covered the most important points of the course	2788	4.4	0.5	
17. Provided timely and frequent feedback on tests, reports, projects, etc. to help students improve	0	NA	NA	

Ratings were made on a 5-point scale (1=Hardly ever, 5=Almost always).

¹ Approximately two-thirds of class averages will be within ±1 standard deviation of the group's average.

Section V: Student Self-ratings and Ratings of Course Characteristics

This section summarizes **A. Student Self-ratings** of their motivation, academic effort, and work habits; student ratings of **B. Course Characteristics** related to amount of reading, other work, and course difficulty; and **C. Experimental Items**. Information in Tables A and B may be compared to students' perceptions of classes in the entire IDEA System.

Item averages and information about the "Middle 50%" is provided for **Student Self-ratings and Course Characteristics**. You may compare individual class scores with the Middle 50% range for *This Report* or the *IDEA System*. Classes that exceed the upper number of the range are in the top quarter of classes. Conversely, classes whose average fall below the lower number in the range are in the bottom quarter.

The size of the "middle 50%" range allows you to infer how similar courses are for each item. The larger the range, the more dissimilar classes included in this report are with respect to the characteristic being measured.

A. Student Self-ratings*

Classes using the Short Form before October 7, 2002 were included in this report. Because of survey differences, Student Self-rating results cannot be reported in this Group Summary Report.

B. Student Ratings of Course Characteristics**

Diagnostic Form Item Number and Item	Average		Middle 50%
	This Report	IDEA System	
33. Amount of reading	This Report	3.4	2.9 - 3.8
	IDEA System	3.2	2.8 - 3.7
34. Amount of work in other (non-reading) assignments	This Report	3.4	3.0 - 3.9
	IDEA System	3.4	3.1 - 3.9
35. Difficulty of subject matter	This Report	3.8	3.4 - 4.3
	IDEA System	3.4	3.1 - 3.9

C. Experimental Items*

Diagnostic Form Item Number and Item	Average	Standard Deviation
44. The instructor used a variety of methods--not only tests--to evaluate student progress on course objectives.	3.6	0.7
45. The instructor expected students to take their share of responsibility for learning.	4.4	0.3
46. The instructor had high achievement standards in this class.	4.2	0.4
47. The instructor used educational technology (e.g., Internet, e-mail, computer exerciese, multi-media presentations, etc.) to promote learning.	3.9	0.7

* 1=Definitely false 2=More false than true 3=In between 4=More true than false 5=Definitely true

** 1=Much less than most courses 2=Less than most courses 3>About average 4=More than most courses 5=Much more than most courses

NA indicates data were unavailable or inapplicable. This may indicate that no responses were available for a given item or that the number of valid responses for that item was less than 5. The Middle 50% is not calculated without at least 5 valid responses.

Section VI: Faculty Self-report of the Institutional Context

A. Primary and Secondary Instructional Approaches: Shows the relative frequency of various approaches to instruction. Since students have different learning styles, it is generally desirable that they be exposed to a variety of approaches. This information was reported by course instructors on the *Faculty Information Form*.

	Primary Approach		Secondary Approach	
	N	%	N	%
Lecture	2933	62	369	8
Discussion/recitation	105	2	736	16
Seminar	77	2	57	1
Skill/activity	39	1	176	4
Laboratory	948	20	1609	34
Field Experience	33	1	98	2
Studio	10	0	2	0
Multi-Media	22	0	141	3
Practicum/clinic	13	0	23	0
Other/Not Indicated	553	12	1522	32

B. Course Emphases: Shows the degree to which classes in this area expose students to various kinds of academic activities. Generally, proficiency is related to the amount of exposure. Are we giving students enough opportunity to develop the skills they need after graduation? This information was reported by course instructors on the *Faculty Information Form*.

	Number Rating Emphasis	Amount Required					
		None or little		Some		Much	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Writing	4159	894	22	2500	60	765	18
Oral communication	4136	1649	40	2083	50	404	10
Computer applications	4132	2333	56	1582	38	217	5
Group work	4141	1254	30	1869	45	1018	25
Mathematical/quantitative work	4131	2014	49	1874	45	243	6
Critical thinking	4148	489	12	2270	55	1389	33
Creative/artistic/design	4120	3383	82	676	16	61	1

Section VI: The Institutional Context, Continued

C. "Circumstances" Impact on Learning: Shows how instructors regard various factors that may facilitate or impede student learning. Until research establishes the implications of these ratings, administrators should make their own appraisal of whether or not ratings of teaching effectiveness were affected by these factors. This information was reported by course instructors on the *Faculty Information Form*.

	Number Rating Circumstance	Impact on Learning					
		Negative		Neither Positive nor Negative		Positive	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Physical facilities/equipment	3873	553	14	1272	33	2048	53
Experience teaching the course	3580	72	2	376	11	3132	87
Changes in approach	3002	136	5	1890	63	976	33
Desire to teach the course	3899	25	1	422	11	3452	89
Control over course management decisions	3784	78	2	861	23	2845	75
Student background	3682	1129	31	1434	39	1119	30
Student enthusiasm	3680	590	16	1182	32	1908	52
Student effort to learn	3696	590	16	974	26	2132	58
Technical/instructional support	3477	234	7	1809	52	1434	41

Classes Included in this Report

Report includes classes from the following class ID's:

Section VII: Additional Questions

This section provides frequencies, average scores, and standard deviations for **Additional Questions** that were consistent across classes included in this summary report (if requested).

Additional Questions

No additional questions requested.