



Blue Course Evaluation System FAQs for Faculty and Staff

Students are asked to provide feedback about their experiences in Antioch courses via course evaluations. This feedback can provide valuable insight about the student experience that contributes to effective teaching and learning. Course evaluations are offered for all Antioch courses, using a set of questions determined by their academic department.

1. Who do I contact with general questions about course evaluations?

Contact your academic department regarding general questions and concerns with the course evaluation process.

2. Will my class get an online course evaluation?

All course evaluations are delivered using a variety of methods depending upon your academic department. The Blue Course Evaluation System (Blue for short) is used by departments throughout Antioch for online course evaluations. Your department confirms which courses will do a course evaluation. For example, regular course evaluations are typically not appropriate for students enrolled in independent study courses or graduate research seminars. Please check with your academic department if you have questions.

3. What questions are on my course evaluation?

Questions are determined by your academic department. The Blue Course Evaluation System is flexible, with a wide range of question types available. For example, over time, your department may choose to allow instructors to add their own questions. Please check with your academic department for more information.

4. When are online course evaluations available to students?

Most departments set the dates for their course evaluations based on the academic calendar. For example, in a typical 15-week course, evaluations open in week 11 or 12, a final reminder is sent week 14, and evaluations close at the end of the term. However, some programs have a very complex schedule that doesn't necessarily correspond with the academic calendar. Your department can provide you with the exact evaluation dates each academic term. All students are notified by email when course evaluations are available.

5. How do students get to the online course evaluations in Blue?

Students access their online course evaluations through email invitations sent through the Blue Course Evaluation System from their department administrator or Chair. These are sent to students' Antioch email address as soon as the course evaluation opens, typically with two reminders to all students.

6. Can students do the online course evaluation during class?

Since students can use a laptop or mobile device, instructors have the option of giving time in class for course evaluations. In-class delivery works well, with an adaptive display for any laptop or device (no app needed), provided your classroom has adequate wireless access.

7. My students don't see a course evaluation in Blue for my class. Who should I contact?

Send a help request to your academic department with your full name, the complete course subject code and section number (e.g., COM-5070-1), a brief description of the problem, and your preferred contact information. They will relay your issue to the Blue Course Evaluation support team.

8. Who should I contact for support with course evaluations in Blue?

For technical support or to report a problem, instructors should contact their academic department who will relay your issue to the Blue Course Evaluation support team.

9. What are the benefits of using an online course evaluation system?

The many benefits include:

- Faculty have electronic records of their course evaluations, including comments.
- Student confidentiality is better protected online than as written comments on paper.
- Students have more time to complete thoughtful responses and provide meaningful comments.
- Students get email reminders to complete course evaluations.
- Students can use mobile devices to complete course evaluations, in class or outside of class.
- The online system allows for more flexibility in reporting and analysis.
- Faculty can add their own questions if permitted by their department.

10. What about response rates? I hear they go down with online evaluations.

Online response rates vary among universities, and technology alone does not determine response rates--the engagement of instructors and leadership can have a significant impact on student participation. The overall response rate for all Antioch courses using Blue was 58%, though response rates for many courses is significantly higher.

11. How can I get strong response rates in my own courses?

There are many strategies that support online response rates. The single most effective way to boost response rates is for instructors to let students know that they read and consider the course evaluation responses each academic term, and make changes based on student input. The Blue Course Evaluation System sends reminders to students who have not submitted their course evaluation and gives departments access to see live response rates.