

# Best Practices in Online Course Evaluation

With the unavoidable recent shift towards online education, the evaluation of online courses has become more important than ever. Online course evaluation is crucial for faculty to improve teaching methods, identify areas of strength and weakness, and enhance the overall learning experience for their students. However, to ensure the effectiveness and accuracy of these evaluations, it is essential for faculty to use best practices in their evaluation methods.

Check out a summary of major categories for evaluation, resources, rubrics, etc. below!

## How to do an online evaluation

- View a zoom class if offered synchronously
- View the D2L course for organization of content, class discussion, activities and materials, and announcements.

## Evaluation Categories

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### Course Overview and Information

Evaluation for course overview includes:

- Content Regarding Course Navigation and Introductions
- Communication Expectations
- Syllabus
- Course Objectives
- Course Structure
- Instructor Contact Information

### Interaction and Engagement

Evaluation for interaction and engagement includes:

- Scheduled/predictable timely feedback from instructor
- Opportunity for interaction on a peer-to-peer and learner-instructor basis
- Course offers opportunities for community building
- Course provides opportunities for learners to interact and share resources

### Activities and Material

Evaluation for activities and materials includes:

- Materials are current, engaging, and relevant to the course
- A variety of instructional delivery methods to accommodate different types of learners.  
Ex: readings, videos, interactives, etc.
- External links are functional and up to date
- Content is accessible to all students.  
Ex: text options for non-text elements (alt. text)

### Assessment and feedback

Evaluation for assessment and feedback includes:

- Course grading policies are clearly stated
- All types of assessment match those listed on the syllabus
- Feedback is timely, constructive, and meaningful
- Multiple assessment types are utilized.  
Ex: quizzes, exams, discussion, papers, group projects, presentations, etc.
- Learners have opportunities to assess themselves.  
Ex: pre-tests, reflections, etc.

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## Additional Information and Sample Full Online Course Evaluation Rubrics

[The OLC OSCQR Course Design Review Scorecard](#)

[eLearning Course Evaluation: A Guide for eLearning Professionals](#)

[Online Education: What Should We Evaluate?](#)

[Evaluation of an Online Course](#)

[Oregon State University | Peer-Review of Online Teaching Guidelines](#)