

Leverage Your LMS Tools to Get Weekly Feedback from Your Students

"I never teach my students, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

--Albert Einstein

Do students have opportunities to meet each other and work together outside of class? How did that last midterm go – did students have enough direction on what to study? Are your PowerPoint slides clear or are there ways they can be improved to help students learn? What was the most valuable thing students learned this week?

Often we wait for the end of course student evaluations to learn what students have been thinking about our class, and by then it is too late to address any concerns or make adjustments.

- A simple strategy you can use to get feedback on your teaching and student learning (weekly or at whatever interval you desire) is to set-up a questionnaire that students can complete **anonymously** to give you feedback through your Learning Management System (LMS).
- In Blackboard the survey tool will allow you to do this—it's located in the area called "tests, surveys and Pools."
- This process can be as simple as asking one question at the end of each week – "Tell me something valuable you learned this week?" or "What do you wish we had time to discuss more of from this past week?"
- Ask the same question weekly or modify to get feedback on a variety of areas of your course.

However, if you choose to do this, you must also commit yourself to addressing the feedback! Report back to students in the following class session what you hear from them, thank them for their feedback, and respond accordingly.

A teaching tip submitted by:

Jess Gregg, University of California, Los Angeles