Understanding Your Results from the "Student Rating of Courses and Teaching"
<u>Fall 2023 Onward</u>

The report header

- Instructor Name
- Term (eg, Fall 2023)
- Course-Section-Type-Instructor Count-Term (eg, EN103-002-LEC-1-Fa23)

How to Read the Histogram or Bar Chart (continued)

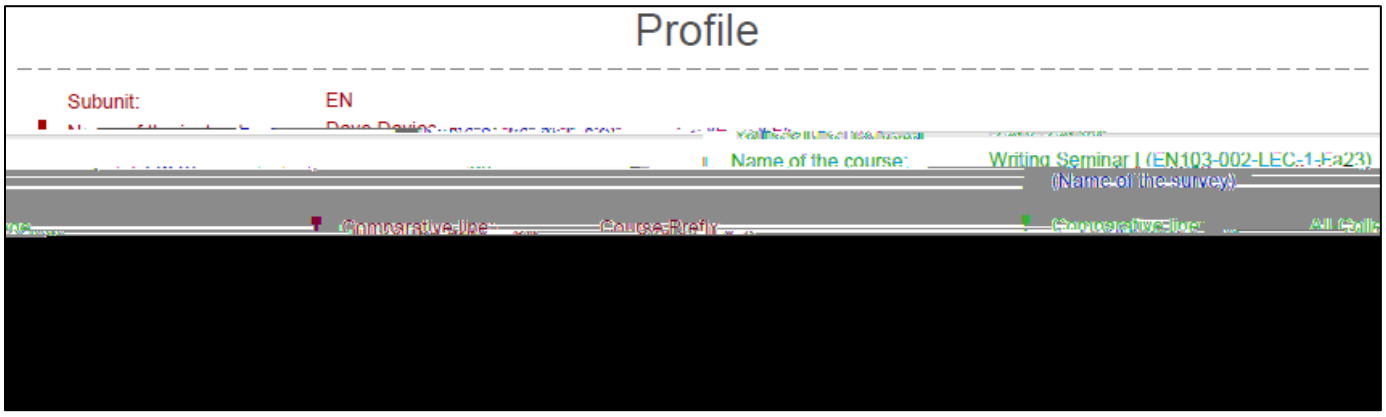
- Descriptive Statistics (See Appendix A for definitions of these statistics)
  - Several descriptive statistics are visually plotted on this image:
    - Mean – a **red** vertical bar
    - Median – a **blue** arrow ▼
    - Standard Deviation – a horizontal **black** 'whisker' line that runs through the mean. The ends of this line mark a distance of one standard deviation above and below the mean. The mean will always be in the center of this whisker line.
  - To the right of the histogram, you will find the same descriptive statistics reported numerically:
    - Number of responses **(n)**
    - Mean **(av.)**
    - Median **(md)**
    - Standard Deviation **(dev.)**
    - Abstention **(ab.)** is not used as this only applies to "not applicable" response options. It will not be displayed on your reports.

Results for student information questions (Frequencies, page 3)

- The section provides results to the student information questions (#6.1 to #6.4).
- In addition to the overall n (number of respondents for #6.1, number of responses for 6.2-6.4), frequencies are shown for each response option numerically (% values) for your course section. There is no comparison to the course, course prefix, or all-college for this section.
- For questions #6.2 to #6.4, the percentage will sum to 100%; however, for #6.1 students can select all that apply and the percentage will range from 0-100% for each of the 5 items (required for major, elective for major, etc.).

Your course section results comparison ('Profile,' pages 4-5)

- This section shows profile lines and descriptive statistics for questions on the survey (#1.1 to #5.1) that allow you to compare your **course section** (red) results (mean, etc.) to the aggregated results for the following:
  - **All-College** (blue) – all course section offerings at the College for the semester
  - **Course Prefix** (green) - all of the course sections offered that semester within the same course prefix (e.g., all EN courses for the term).
  - **Course (same prefix & number)** (orange) - all section offerings of the same course that semester (e.g., all sections of EN103 for the term).
    Note: if only one section of a course is offered, the red course section mean profile line will appear as it 'overlaps' the orange course mean line.



How to Read the Profiles

- The four profile lines connect the means for each question for visual comparison. One line is for your course section, one for the all college, one for the course prefix, and one for the course (if multiple sections are offered that semester).
- Additional statistics are presented to the right: **n**, **av.**, **md**, and **dev.** For each question, descriptive statistics are provided to the right and are color-coded to correspond to the profile line (e.g., your course section is shown on the top line in red, and aggregated statistics for all-college, course prefix, and the course are below that.

Your course section results comparison overall ('Profile Line for Indicators,' page 6)

- Contains a summary of 5 items for your only your course section:
  1. The Course… (mean of responses to questions #1.1 to #1.9)
  2. Course Overall (question #2.1)
  3. The Instructor… (mean of responses to questions #3.1 to #3.10)
  4. Instructor Overall (question #4.1)
  5. Learning Overall (question #5.1)
- Three items ('2. Course Overall,' '4. Instructor Overall,' and '5. Learning Overall') are single questions asked directly to students and are simply repeated from the profile section on pages 4 and 5.
- Two items '1. The Course…' and '3. The Instructor…' are indicators or constructs calculated from all the questions in that respective question group. An indicator is the overall mean of a question group of questions. It is calculated by adding up all response values to all questions of this question group and then dividing the sum by the total number of responses given to all questions in the group. The calculation of indicators is described in more detail in Appendix A.
  - '1. The Course…' is the overall mean of questions #1.1 to #1.9.
  - . '3. The Instructor…' is the overall mean of qall # 0.006 T3.3 an ouors wl.6 (t)-27 (u)-0.7 (e)-6 (s)-4.3 (t)-1 wl.

Appendix A: Calculation and Meaning of Statistics

- **Mean (av.)**
  - The arithmetic mean is the average of a series of measurements. It is calculated by adding up the individual values and then dividing this sum by the number of values.
  - Example Calculation:
    - The arithmetic mean for a series of measurements of 8 responses to a survey question with 5 answer options is calculated as follows:
      - 1. Sum up values of responses: 3 + 1 + 5 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 29 •

        - 3. Take the square root from 1.696
        - 4. The standard deviation is 1.30
    - It is important to note that, oftentimes, small differences between your score and the mean are not statistically meaningful or "significant". The standard deviation can provide a useful comparison measure here. To know if a particular score is meaningfully different than the mean, it is essential to compare not only the means but also the standard deviations. Such comparisons are best done with relatively large class sizes. Similar means are more statistically distinguishable with more student responses. Determining if a given score is significantly different from the average is more difficult for small classes and small course prefix groups.

- **Indicator (construct)**
    - An indicator is the overall mean of a question group of survey responses. It is calculated by adding up all response values to all questions of th u thuest