

The Purpose of Surveys of the Student Experience of Courses

Information gathered from students' surveys of their courses contributes to maintaining the overall quality of education at the University.

PRIMARY PURPOSE

Professors at Mount Allison conduct surveys primarily for **formative** purposes; that is, they use student feedback to improve or maintain the quality of teaching and student learning.

Generally, professors are most interested in students' **written comments** because those contain the most specific feedback about the course, what helped the students learn, and what could be modified. Professors use these comments when they prepare to teach the course again.

Therefore, it is most important that students answer the written questions and do so honestly, constructively, and respectfully.

OTHER

Also, whenever professors are applying for tenure or promotion at the University, they are asked to present evidence of their accomplishments in teaching, research, and service. Student feedback, accumulated over time in a variety of courses, can be a very valuable component of that evidence.

Finally, nomination dossiers for both internal and external teaching awards commonly contain student evaluation of teaching data.