

Interpretive Guide for Teaching Essentials



Teaching Essentials answers four big questions

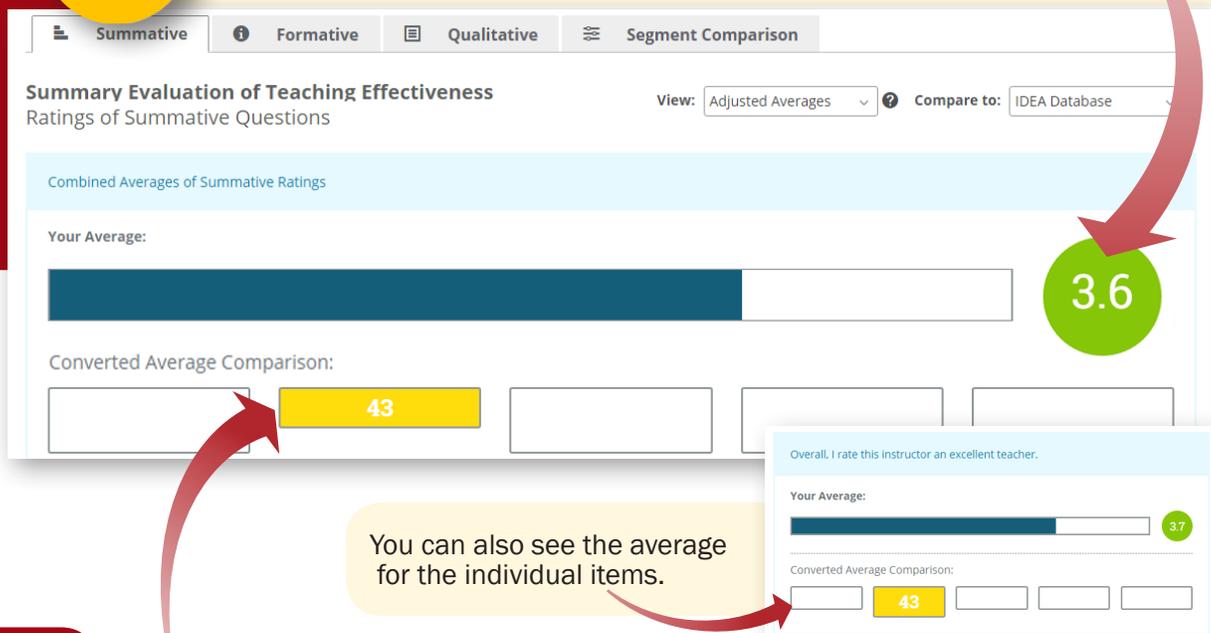
The Teaching Essentials tool is designed to provide feedback about those “essential” teaching methods that are more highly correlated than others with overall ratings of teaching excellence and the course.

Overall, how effectively did students perceive this class to be taught?

1

The **Summary Evaluation** provides a quick overview of how well students think the class was taught. It is an average of two items on a five point scale:

- Overall, I rate this instructor an excellent teacher
- Overall, I rate this course as excellent



You can also see the average for the individual items.

How do my ratings compare to other courses?

2

Converted scores make it easier to compare the overall excellence ratings to other classes by comparing the course to the overall mean of all courses in the IDEA database and telling you if your score is similar, lower, or higher. A score of 50 is “average,” a score of 63 is in the upper 10% of all classes, while a rating of 37 is in the lowest 10%. Comparisons with your discipline and institutional units are available when there is a large enough sample size.

Compare to: IDEA Database

How can instruction be made more effective?

3

Students rate their observation of **seven teaching methods** that are the most strongly related to overall ratings of teaching and the course.

On the Formative tab, average scores are provided for student ratings of how frequently you employed each teaching method (1 = Hardly ever; 5 = Almost always).

Summative Formative Quantitative Qualitative Segment Comparison

Teaching Methods and Styles

Stimulating Student Interest Suggested Action

Demonstrated the importance and significance of the subject matter

Your Average 4

Students Rating 14% 1 or 2 86% 4 or 5

Suggested Action
You employed the method with frequency typical of those teaching classes of similar size and level of student motivation.

- [IDEA Note](#)

An action for you to take is suggested depending on the size of your class and level of student motivation. If the average rating of a relevant item is well above the IDEA average for your size of class and average student motivation level, it is described as a “Strength to retain.” If the rating is well below average, you are advised to “Consider increasing use”; and if it is in the average range, it is suggested that you “Retain current use or consider increasing.”

Along with this suggested action is a link to resources for learning more about the teaching

Other information

- Compare each item to other units (when available)
- Open-ended comments
- Details for each item

Summative Formative Quantitative Qualitative Segment Comparison

Teaching Methods and Styles

Faculty cannot control some things, like class size and how well-prepared or motivated students are before beginning a course. When these factors negatively affect your ratings, they are adjusted to account for these influences. Students who respond negatively to questions about work habits, background preparation, and their motivation tend to give less favorable ratings of the teacher and course.

When these factors negatively affect your ratings, your **Adjusted Averages** are raised somewhat to account for these influences. On your summative page, you can toggle between adjusted or “raw” averages, and you can compare your scores to other groups, such as your institution or department when there is a large enough sample size.

View: Adjusted Averages ? Compare to: IDEA Database

Do some characteristics of the students and course have implications for instruction?

4