

# Individual Faculty CATS Report

Confidential CATS Reports for:

## *Dear Faculty Member:*

Enclosed is your individual CATS report for the above listed course and section. You will receive individual envelopes and reports for each of the sections you taught last semester. The actual CATS forms completed by the students in this course and section are also enclosed so that you may read their comments.

CATS is designed to provide valuable information to you, to your department and to the University. The use of CATS grows out of the University's emphasis on quality teaching and a commitment to employ student feedback as an essential component of a continual process of improvement.

At the top of the enclosed report you will note that class identification information is reiterated. If you have received someone else's report in error, please contact the Office of Planning, Training, and Institutional Research (OPTIR) for immediate correction.

The top of the enclosed report also lists the total recorded class enrollment and the percent of the total recorded class enrollment completing CATS forms.

In the table, you can see the item numbers corresponding to the CATS form and a paraphrase of the questions in the first two columns. The columns marked **DISTRIBUTION OF RATINGS** show the *number of respondents* who selected each rating. The rating scale ranges from 5 (typically positive) to 1 (typically negative). In the section marked **COURSE**, the first column shows the total number of students in your class who responded to each item on the CATS form and the second column displays the average (mean) rating for each item calculated based on the number of students answering each question. The **COURSE** mean is only for this specific course.

Average ratings are compared between the following groups:

- The first two columns in the section marked **Percentiles based on the distribution of class means within the XX Department** permit a comparison between the average rating for a given item from your class section and the mean for that item across all students who responded to the same item in all classes offered by the department. In this analysis, the first column reports the number of students in the department who responded to the particular item; the second column reports the mean rating for the item across those students. The remaining columns in this section facilitate a comparison between the mean for your class and the distribution of means across classes within your department by providing the values at the 75th, 50th and 25th percentile in the distribution of class means in the department; and,

- The first two columns in the section marked **Percentiles based on the distribution of class means within College XX** permit a comparison between the average rating for a given item from your class section and the mean for that item across all students who responded to the same item in all classes offered by the College. In this analysis, the first column reports the number of students in the College who responded to the particular item; the second column reports the mean rating for the item across those students. The remaining columns in this section facilitate a comparison between the mean for your class and the distribution of means across classes within your College by providing the values at the 75th, 50th and 25th percentile in the distribution of class means in the College.

(Continued on reverse)

Footnotes at the bottom of the report are provided to help guide the interpretation of comparisons between individual section means and the distribution of class means within the department.

We have enclosed the original CATS forms as completed by the students in this section so that you may read their narrative comments. Students were invited to share their written comments on the back of the form. Your department chair has already had the opportunity to review these comments.

If you, your department or your college included supplemental questions with the CATS, a course-specific report and guidelines

for interpreting the results are also enclosed with this packet. You will need to match your questions with the numbering system on the report (Q1 is the first of the supplemental questions, Q2 is the second of the supplemental questions and so forth).

If you have any questions about this report or the interpretation of results, please call the Office of Planning, Training and Institutional Research (9-4558) for assistance. If you have questions about the administration of CATS in the classroom, or the use of this report, please call your department chair, your dean, or the Vice President for Academic Affairs.