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Format: Multiple-choice, Agree/disagree, Short answer

Duration: 15 minutes

Focus: Teaching (leadership and collaboration, resources, collegiality, organizational support)

Level: Upper-level, Intermediate, Intro college

How to give the assessment

- Download the qsf template to give the SCII in Qualtrics (www.physport.org/scoring/SCII)
- The SCII is designed to be used as a diagnostic instrument to support department and institution instructional change efforts. The instrument measures department-level constructs, made up from individual responses. It can identify areas of strength and improvement in terms of readiness for instructional change. Typical implementation involves inviting all department instructors to complete the survey. As with any survey, a high response rate is necessary to ensure that responses are representative. In some departments it can be useful to have an outsider collect and collate results. Reporting of results by demographic (e.g., graduate student instructors vs. tenured faculty; male vs. female instructors) can be useful, but only if there are sufficient numbers to ensure that individuals are not identifiable. We usually recommend not reporting results if there are fewer than five people in a category.

How to score the assessment

Scores are calculated separately for each of the 5 factors. For each factor, add the scores for all items in the factor, divide by the maximum possible sum for that factor, and multiply by 100. The items corresponding to each factor are as follows: Leadership (S16-S22), Collegiality (S1-3, S5, S7), Resources (S8, S10-S15), Respect for Teaching (S4, S23-S28), and Organizational Support (S6, S9, S29, S30). Each factor score can vary between 0 and 100, with 0 representing strong disagreement and 100 representing strong agreement. Scoring information is in the final page of [Walter et al. 2021](#).

Survey of Climate for Instructional Improvement (SCII)

INFORMATION

This survey was originally designed to collect data about the climate for instructional improvement within academic departments at institutions of higher education.

INSTRUCTIONS

The survey consists of 30 statements plus 5 supplementary questions and 10 demographic questions. It should take 10-15 minutes to complete. Each section of the survey has a stem phrase related to a list of statements. Please denote the number that corresponds to the degree of your agreement with each statement.

In the survey, the term "instructor" refers to anyone who teaches in the department, including full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and/or graduate students.

0 - Strongly Disagree	1 - Disagree	2 - Slightly Disagree
3 - Slightly Agree	4 - Agree	5 - Strongly Agree

Instructors In My Department...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
S1. Frequently talk with one another.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S2. Discuss the challenges they face in the classroom with colleagues.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S3. Share resources (ideas, materials, sources, technology, etc.) about how to improve teaching with colleagues.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S4. Aspire to become better teachers.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S5. Use teaching observations to improve their teaching.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S6. Value teaching development services available on campus as a way to improve their teaching.	0	1	2	3	4	5

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Instructors In My Department ARE...						
S7. "Ahead of the curve" when it comes to implementing innovative teaching strategies.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S8. Satisfied with their teaching workload.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S9. Assigned a mentor for advice about teaching.	0	1	2	3	4	5

**Instructors in my
department HAVE...**

S10. Adequate departmental funding to support teaching improvement.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S11. Adequate space to meet with students outside of class.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S12. Adequate time to reflect upon and make changes to their instruction.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S13. Considerable flexibility in the content they teach in their courses.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S14. Considerable flexibility in the way they teach their courses.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S15. The support they need to employ educational technologies in their classrooms.	0	1	2	3	4	5

STATEMENTS 16-22:

The following statements refer to the “department chair.” Please respond to these statements in reference to the individual that is the *formal leader of your department*.

The Department Chair...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
S16. Encourages instructors to go beyond traditional approaches to teaching.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S17. Has a clear vision of how to improve teaching in the department.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S18. Implements teaching-related policies in a consistent and transparent manner.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S19. Inspires respect for his/her ability as a teacher.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S20. Is receptive to ideas about how to improve teaching in the department.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S21. Is tolerant of fluctuations in student evaluations when instructors are trying to improve their teaching.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S22. Is willing to seek creative solutions to budgetary constraints in order to maintain adequate support for teaching improvements.	0	1	2	3	4	5

In My Department...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
S23. New instructors are provided with teaching development opportunities and resources.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S24. Applicants for all teaching positions are required to provide evidence of effective teaching.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S25. Evidence of effective teaching is valued when making decisions about continued employment and/or promotion.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S26. Teaching effectiveness is evaluated fairly.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S27. Teaching is respected as an important aspect of academic work.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S28. All of the instructors are sufficiently competent to teach effectively.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S29. There are structured groups organized around the support and pursuit of teaching improvement.	0	1	2	3	4	5
S30. Instructors with a record of teaching excellence are financially rewarded (e.g. bonuses, raises, or similar).	0	1	2	3	4	5

Supplementary Questions

31. If you could change ONE element of your department to better support teaching improvement, what would it be?

32. Is there a subgroup within your department that you identify with more than the department as a whole?

- Yes
- No

33. How differently would you answer the above questions in regard to the subgroup?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- Completely

34. Please describe the departmental subgroup that you identify with and how you would have answered the questions differently.

35. What proportion of your department is associated with your subgroup?

_____ Percentage of department

SCII Demographic Questions

1. Please indicate your academic rank.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjunct or Part-time Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Time Lecturer / Instructor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting Professor | |

2. Please indicate your academic department. You may provide more than one department should you teach and/or have an appointment in more than one department.

3. What is your gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Trans or non-cisgender
- Prefer not to respond

4. Please identify the racial or ethnic group with which you most identify.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latinx | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-ethnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Alaskan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to respond |

5. Are you an immigrant to the country of your primary institution?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to respond

6. What is your tenure status?

- Tenured
- Untenured, but on tenure track
- Untenured, not on tenure track

7. How many years have you been teaching in higher education?

8. How many years have you been teaching at your current institution?

9. What proportion of your job duties is related to teaching?

10. What leadership role, if any, do you have in your department?

- I do not have a leadership role.
- I am the Chair/Head of the department.
- I am the Associate Chair/Associate Head of the department.
- I am the Chair of the Curriculum Committee in the department.
- I have another leadership role in the department. Please specify