Fall 2005: Evaluations of Online Courses

Overview
Three times a year – during the fall, spring, and summer terms - online courses at Bluegrass Community and Technical College are evaluated with the assistance of the IDEA Center (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) in Manhattan, Kansas. Students taking certain online classes are asked to complete a web-based survey and submit it electronically to IDEA. These responses are automatically compiled and reported back to the Academic Affairs Division and shared as appropriate with individual instructors. (Note: not all instructors are required to complete course evaluations each term, but some choose to do so in order to gain further insight into instructional methods and course content.)

Method
Institutional Research (I.R.) receives a list of instructors whose classes are to be evaluated, along with email addresses of students in these classes. This information is entered into the IDEA course evaluation system, which automatically sends email notes containing the appropriate survey URL to each student. Instructors are also asked to place the URL on their course website. Students are allowed to complete only one survey per class. After the survey period is completed (approximately two weeks), reports are generated by IDEA and sent to I.R.

Sample
One hundred thirteen (113) class sections were evaluated, representing 25 subject areas (English, math, etc) and 50 instructors. The number of students in these classes was 2,146; of these, 795 completed surveys for a response rate (omitting ineligible classes) of 38%.

Results
Due to the confidential nature of the survey content, results were reported directly to the Academic Affairs office.