



Involving Undergraduates in Assessment

students Assessing Teaching And Learning Program
crte.ucmerced.edu/satal



Goal

The SATAL program supports faculty and programs with their assessment activities by collecting evidence of student learning in support of student learning outcomes.

Background



- Initiated in 2009, SATAL provides anonymous aggregated feedback on instructional and co-curricular activities.
- The SATAL program trains undergraduates in research design, data gathering and effective reporting.
- SATAL Students gather data for course and program assessment and involve undergraduate in assessment as a form of undergraduate research training.
- Undergraduates are well positioned to provide supplemental classroom and co-curricular assessment support.
- The peer to peer nature of the interaction offers a non-threatening context for open, authentic, reflection on learning.
- BYU's SCOT program and a few others elsewhere offer a similar service, but SATAL is distinctive in that students don't just collect information, they are also involved in the design of research instruments (e.g. surveys) and analysis of results.

Assessment Options

SATAL students design and collect various forms of data - qualitative and quantitative, direct and indirect, formative and summative

Assessment tools:

- **Focus groups:** leaders will facilitate discussion, to produce a professional summary report.
- **Class interviews:** a quick manner of informing faculty about what helps learning and what changes can be made to improve learning in the class.
- **Videotaping:** it presents a more complete record of classroom events and a different perspective of the way an instructor is teaching.
- **Mid/End-course Evaluations:** proctors will distribute and collect faculty-designed questionnaire and then tabulate and write a summary report of findings.
- **Classroom observations:** observers will describe (rather than evaluate) what goes on in the classroom with regard to time spent in questioning, board work, small group discussion, etc.

Workshops and Projects



Videotaping Projects

- Teacher assistant videotaping paired with consultations

Workshops

- Service Learning for the school of engineering
- Assessment for Council for Graduate School
- TA orientation

Feedback Initiative Project

To train students to assess and provide constructive feedback, SATAL designed and piloted a feedback rubric in 12 Merritt Writing Program classes.



Impact

Impact on teaching and learning:

"I already made specific changes to the course: giving students copies of completed quizzes with correct answers after the quiz is over, giving students a study guide for midterm exams, and changing the way I call on students to ensure all students are called on." – Psychology Professor

"I will be revising my lecture slide format in response to the feedback I received. I will be putting less information on slides and working more from notes...I'm hoping it leads to more student involvement and participation in my classes." – Psychology Lecturer

"I will incorporate more demos and videos in the spring semester. I also started incorporating a brief review session the lecture before the exam by having the class collectively create an outline of topics. I will also provide more instruction and helpful hints for Mastering Physics problems." – Physics Lecturer

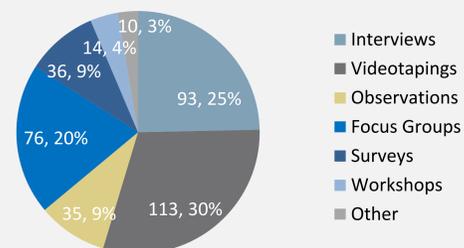
"...I've already become mindful of some small things I can do in lecture to facilitate the process and what students get out of participation, such as repeating back student questions for the entire class to hear the questions." – Psychology/Cognitive Science Lecturer

Impact on undergraduate students working in the program based on self assessment survey results:

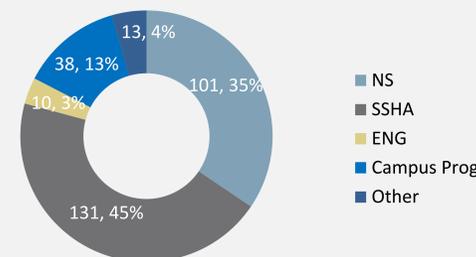
Skills Improvement	N = 17
Research	15 88%
Teamwork & Leadership	15 88%
Oral & Written Communication	15 88%
Achieving Full Potential	15 88%
Value Diverse Perspective	14 82%
Ethical Considerations	12 71%
Decision Making	11 65%

SATAL Support Since Its Beginning in 2009 through 2013

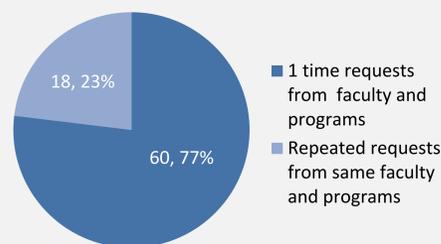
SATAL Requests by Service



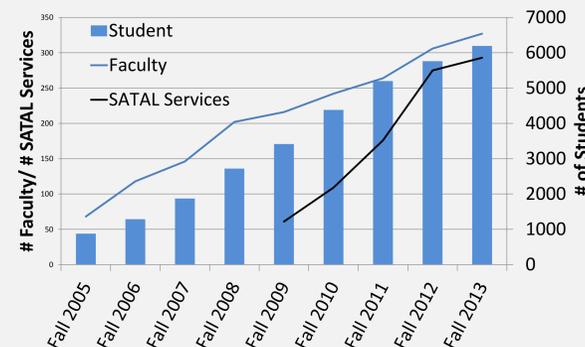
SATAL Requests by School



SATAL Continuous Support for Faculty



SATAL Growth vs. UCM Growth



Acknowledgments

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