

FAQs for Students Participating in IDEA Online Surveying

1. Q: Will my instructor see the surveys before grades are turned in?

A: No. As with paper surveys, your instructor will not see anything you write until after final grades are turned in.

2. Q: Where do I go to complete the IDEA survey?

A: Log in to your Ben U email account and look for an email from the IDEA Center. There will be a link in the email that will take you to the login page for online surveying.

3. Q: What information will I need to log in to the site?

A: You will need your Benedictine University Student ID#.

4. Q: How long will the survey take?

A: The online survey will take about 10 – 15 minutes to complete, depending on whether the short form or long form is being used for your class.

5. Q: Will my instructor know what I wrote in the open-ended comments?

A: No. Unlike paper surveys, your instructor will not see your handwriting because everything has to be typed online. Hence, students do not need to be concerned about their instructor knowing what they wrote by recognizing their handwriting. Additionally, when the instructor gets back the type-written student comments, all the comments for one question are listed, followed by all the comments for the next question, etc. So, your comments will be mixed in with all the other students' comments for each question.

6. Q: Why should I take the time to complete an online survey?

A: Your candid and thoughtful feedback can help guide your instructor's teaching improvement activities. Many instructors have expressed how valuable the open-ended student comments are to them as they ponder how to improve the course for next time around. Additionally, department chairs, program directors, and deans review the survey results and use them when making administrative decisions. And finally, the Rank and Tenure Committee also considers the IDEA survey results when evaluating the overall teaching effectiveness of a faculty member going up for tenure or promotion. This is your opportunity to let your voice be heard and – as a member of our academic community – it's the responsible thing to do.

7. Q: Why are we using online surveys instead of paper surveys?

A: Online surveys safeguard the anonymity of the students by circumventing concerns associated with instructors recognizing the handwriting of their students. Benedictine University saves money by not having to buy paper surveys and from the time savings realized due to office assistants no longer needing to put together IDEA packets for each course, track these packets, and do quality control on the packets once they come back to the office area. Online surveying will cut down on "survey fatigue" because students can complete the survey at their convenience, as opposed to completing three surveys in one day. And finally, online surveying is good for the environment because it is a paperless process and hence, it saves trees!

8. Q: How long do I have to complete the survey?

A: Once surveying begins, you have three weeks to complete the online survey, assuming you are in a traditional undergraduate course. If you are in a MOD course, QTR course, or cohort course you will have slightly less time to complete the survey. The survey can be completed from any computer that has access to the internet, so you can complete the IDEA survey from the convenience of your home if you wish.