

FAQ on SIEs - Students

Q: What are SIEs?

A: SIE stands for Student Instructor Evaluations, which are the end-of-course surveys completed by students about their experience in each course. This is common practice across most colleges and universities in the US. The numeric results and the comments are used by faculty to improve their course offerings and may be used by department chairs and college deans as part of the faculty review process. The SIE process is completed using an online survey platform administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA).

Q: How can I find out when the SIEs will be open?

A: A schedule for the SIEs is available on the OIRA website <http://www.uah.edu/academic-affairs/offices/oira> under Student Instructor Evaluations.

Q: What should I expect as a student?

A: The SIE process for students typically takes place during the last two weeks of the course prior to the start of exams. You will receive an initial email on the day the survey opens and then up to two additional reminder emails. Each email includes brief instructions and link to a list of your surveys, one for every course you are taking that semester. You can complete your survey on any device with internet access and a browser. Some faculty may provide time in class to complete the survey while others will expect students to complete it outside of class time.

If you are a freshmen enrolled in the FYE course, you will complete two SIEs, one at midterm and one at the end of the course. The Midterm SIE follows the same process as the regular end-of-course survey except the survey is open for the middle two weeks of the semester.

Q: What questions are included on SIE?

A: The survey for each course includes the set of 12 Core Questions that are designed to cover most aspects of the course. The survey may also include questions sets specific to the College or Department that offers the course. Each question calls for a rating response (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, or Not Applicable) and offers a space for comments. Specific comments on how the faculty member could improve the course in that area are encouraged.

If you are enrolled in a course that has multiple course instructors listed in Banner, your survey will include a set of questions for each instructor. Please make sure to note the course instructor listed in the question header before you mark your responses.

A copy of all the most recent survey is available on the OIRA website <http://www.uah.edu/academic-affairs/offices/oira> under Student Instructor Evaluations.

Q: Will the course instructor know which responses are mine?

A: The only identifying information included with SIE reports is the specific course and instructor. Other identifying information about you (such as name, race/ethnicity, major, etc.) is never published or reported with the actual responses. In fact, an individual report on a specific course/instructor is only published if at least 3 students respond. So if only one or two students respond in a course, those results

are not reported to the course instructor; however they are included in summary reports at the department, college, and university level.

Q: Who sees these results?

A: SIE results are reported each semester on the individual course and instructor to that course instructor, on all courses in a department at the department level, on all courses in a college at the college level, and on all courses in the university to upper level administrators. The reports generally include the same statistics for each question: the number of students who gave each rating, the percentage that represents, the total number of students who responded, and the mean score. Additional data is included based on the report level.

- Individual course and instructor reports also include the mean score for each question for the department, the college, and university as well as the exact text for any comments.
- Department reports also include the mean score for each question for the college and the university as well as the exact text for any comments.
- College reports provide the same statistics for each department and the college overall.
- The University report provides the same statistics for each college as well as the university overall.

Reports are not available for anyone to view until after grades have been posted for the semester.

More Questions? Contact Ginny Cockerill, the SIE Administrator, at sie@uah.edu or x. 6254.