Transcript

Importance of Student Feedback

Mark Edgar, Population Health Sciences, School of Medicine and Public Health

Well, as far as feedback for the students, in addition to the discussion boards and those types of elements of the course, I have chunked the course into modules so that they are turning in assignments or draft assignments several times during the semester. What this is doing is each one of those chunks is building into a final presentation.

What I do is they turn that in, I give them usually feedback. They turn in six to eight PowerPoint slides and a couple of pages of text. What I do then is do some critique of their slides, do some track changes on their texts material, and send that back to them each time. It's actually a lot of feedback verging on as much as I can do depending on the number of students.

I think it's really important that they get that multiple instances of feedback through the course so that they can make corrections as they're moving through the course and that the final project then comes together very nicely.

Chris Dakes, School of Business, College of Engineering

I ask them for formal feedback three times throughout the semester. Once just a couple of weeks into it, just kind of basic logistics. How's the class going? Can you navigate through the website? Do you have any technical glitches on your end?

Then halfway through the semester, it's more about content and flow. Is this course meeting your needs? What are some issues that will come up that you want to go into deeper or more deeply.

Then the end of the semester evaluation. I don't just ask and then take it and go. I then follow up by saying this is what I heard. This is what I'm going to do to change. This is what I heard from you that I'm not going to change and this is why.

Just by closing the loop on that feedback, it helps to learn from the students' perspective what can be done and also buys you some leeway from them that you have some reasoning behind why you're doing what you're doing.