

Course Evaluations Item Library (CEIL)

The **Course Evaluation Item Library (CEIL)**¹ is a reference resource that provides faculty with a curated collection of optional course evaluation items that may be selected to supplement VCU's core course evaluation questions. The library is organized into categories to facilitate browsing and help faculty locate items related to different aspects of teaching and learning.

Faculty may select up to **five** optional items to add to each of their course evaluations through the course evaluation platform. **This document serves as a reference guide to the complete library of available items.**

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¹ CEIL contains 225 optional evaluation items, adapted from the Purdue Instructor Course Evaluation Service (PICES) item library. The original PICES collection was reviewed, refined, and reorganized to create a streamlined library that aligns with VCU's course evaluation process while preserving a broad range of topics for faculty consideration.

Course Structure, Goals, and Objectives

Items A.1-A.11

Item	Evaluation Item
A.1	The purpose and importance of the course objectives are clearly explained.
A.2	The course objectives, requirements, and grading criteria are clearly communicated.
A.3	Course content, lectures, and activities clearly align with the stated course objectives.
A.4	Assignments are organized in a way that clearly relates to the course content.
A.5	Each module or unit clearly indicates what students are expected to learn.
A.6	The course objectives are achievable and help me keep track of my learning progress.
A.7	Students have opportunities to help set or influence some of the goals for their own learning in this course.
A.8	The course content aligns with what I expected based on the course description.
A.9	The course materials and activities are logically organized for learning.
A.10	The structure of this course allows for flexibility for different learning needs.
A.11	Expectations for appropriate use of Gen AI tools in this course are noted in the syllabus and clearly explained.

Teaching / Learning of Relationships and Concepts

Items B.1-B.8

Item	Evaluation Item
B.1	My instructor clearly explains how course topics and ideas are connected.
B.2	New ideas are explained in ways that relate to what I already know.
B.3	This course emphasized understanding concepts and principles, rather than memorization.
B.4	Concepts are presented in ways that help me understand and apply them.
B.5	My instructor uses clear and relevant examples to help explain key concepts in this class.
B.6	My instructor uses cases, articles, or other sources to help illustrate key concepts in this class.
B.7	Course content is connected to current research or real-world situations.
B.8	Course projects and activities help deepen my understanding of key concepts.

Relevance of Content

Items C.1-C.7

Item	Evaluation Item
C.1	This course provides knowledge and skills relevant to my academic and professional goals.
C.2	I can apply what I learn in this course to practical or real-world situations.
C.3	The subject matter is presented as meaningful and connected to its real-world significance.
C.4	My instructor shares current examples to help illustrate the course concepts.
C.5	The amount of technical information is appropriate for the level of the course.
C.6	This course provides a strong foundation for more advanced study or career preparation.
C.7	This course contributes meaningfully to the goals of my program or major.

Organization and Clarity of Presentation

Items D.1-D.17

Item	Evaluation Item
D.1	My instructor demonstrates strong knowledge of the course concepts and key topics.
D.2	Course topics are covered in sufficient depth to support my understanding.
D.3	My instructor provides clear explanations, including alternative explanations when needed.
D.4	When I indicate that I don't understand the material, my instructor provides additional explanation or help.
D.5	Experiments, assignments, and course tasks are clearly explained.
D.6	The course content and presentations are well organized and logically sequenced.
D.7	My instructor summarizes key points in ways that help me understand.
D.8	My instructor presents material beyond just the assigned reading, to improve my understanding.
D.9	My instructor teaches at a pace and level of instruction that helps me to understand the material.
D.10	My instructor speaks clearly, is easily heard, and maintains eye contact with the class.
D.11	My instructor uses diagrams, visuals, or demonstrations effectively to help explain concepts.
D.12	My instructor uses class time effectively and starts/stops class on time.
D.13	My instructor presents material in a way that makes it easy to take notes and follow along.
D.14	My instructor uses humor or other engaging techniques that help support learning in this course.
D.15	My instructor communicates effectively in the language of instruction for this course.
D.16	The course content and presentations are well organized and logically sequenced.
D.17	My instructor explains and consistently follows their class attendance policy.

Instructional Methods

Items E.1-E.12

Item	Evaluation Item
E.1	The teaching methods in this course help me understand the course concepts.
E.2	The course format and activities support the stated objectives.
E.3	This course emphasizes problem-solving and practical exercises that deepen my learning.
E.4	Working on the term/final project helped me understand the subject more fully.
E.5	Lectures include material not included in the textbook that further increase my understanding of concepts.
E.6	This course balances reading, discussion, and writing effectively.
E.7	Time in class is given to allow me to effectively take notes and follow along with presentations.
E.8	Guest speakers and/or field trips are well planned, clearly presented, and enhance my learning.
E.9	Student presentations in this course help me learn and are engaging.
E.10	Group work is encouraged for writing projects and contributes to my learning of concepts.
E.11	The course provides opportunities to effectively communicate electronically.
E.12	My instructor encourages students to use the writing lab for this course.

Team Teaching

Items F.1-F.4

Item	Evaluation Item
F.1	Team teaching in this course is well-coordinated.
F.2	The team teaching approach improved my learning of important concepts.
F.3	The instructors for this work effectively together.
F.4	Team teaching in this course provides insights that a single instructor could not.

Discussion

Items G.1-G.7

Item	Evaluation Item
G.1	My instructor facilitates class discussions effectively.
G.2	Class discussions are well-organized, stay on track, and balance lecture and discussion.
G.3	My instructor encourages students to ask questions, share ideas, and express differing viewpoints.
G.4	My instructor asks questions that challenge me to think through problems and arrive at my own answers.
G.5	My instructor takes the time to provide clear and thorough answers to questions.
G.6	Class discussions allow sufficient time for questions and student participation.
G.7	Class discussions help me learn from both the instructor and other students.

Instructional Technology

Items H.1-H.5

Item	Evaluation Item
H.1	The use of technology by my instructor in this course helps me understand and learn important concepts.
H.2	I have adequate access to the technology needed for this course.
H.3	The Canvas course page is a useful resource for this class.
H.4	Audio-visual and visual materials in this course are clear and contribute to my learning.
H.5	Hand-written or printed information provided by my instructor is easy to read.

Course Materials

Items I.1-I.6

Item	Evaluation Item
I.1	The course textbooks and required materials help me understand the course content and concepts.
I.2	Study guides, handouts, and other supplemental materials are helpful for learning course concepts.
I.3	The syllabus provides clear and useful information for this course.
I.4	Course materials help me complete assignments and apply what I am learning.
I.5	Bibliographies and references for this course are thorough and up-to-date.
I.6	Problem sets provided by my instructor help me to learn the course concepts.

Readings and Assignments

Items J.1-J.9

Item	Evaluation Item
J.1	Assigned readings and course materials are relevant, hold my interest, and help me understand key concepts.
J.2	Assignments and activities are clearly connected to course topics and learning objectives.
J.3	The course projects keep me engaged and support my learning of important concepts.
J.4	I have some freedom to choose topics and express my ideas.
J.5	The purpose and directions for course assignments are clearly explained.
J.6	The number of assignments and tests is reasonable for the level of this course.
J.7	Adequate time is given to complete assignments.
J.8	Assignments are returned within a reasonable time frame, which helps support my learning of course material.
J.9	Late assignment policies for this class are clearly explained in the syllabus and by my instructor.

Providing Help as Needed

Items K.1-K.5

Item	Evaluation Item
K.1	My instructor is accessible and provides help when I request it.
K.2	Individual meetings and/or opportunities during class have helped me understand the course material.
K.3	Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor if they are struggling with the material.
K.4	My instructor provides useful guidance on how to study and understand course concepts.
K.5	My instructor provides resources and support that help me learn the course material.

Adapting to Individual Differences

Items L.1-L.3

Item	Evaluation Item
L.1	This course is designed to accommodate students' individual abilities, learning preferences, and/or interests.
L.2	My instructor adjusts their teaching methods when needed to help students learn.
L.3	The course allows me to learn at my own pace.

Providing Feedback to Students

Items M.1-M.3

Item	Evaluation Item
M.1	My instructor provides timely feedback that helps me understand my progress and improve my work.
M.2	My instructor gives specific, constructive feedback that helps me improve my understanding and performance.
M.3	Feedback on tests and/or assignments helps me learn from mistakes and understand how to improve.

Exams / Grades / Evaluation

Items N.1-N.14

Item	Evaluation Item
N.1	Exams and quizzes cover key material and concepts taught in this course.
N.2	Exams include a manageable amount of material and allow sufficient time for completion.
N.3	Exams are an appropriate length and level of difficulty for this course.
N.4	Exams require me to think creatively and apply what I've learned to new situations.
N.5	Grading criteria are clear and reflect the importance of different course activities.

N.6	My grades accurately reflect my overall understanding and performance in this course.
N.7	This course includes a variety of graded assignments and exams that provide a balanced view of my overall progress.
N.8	I understand how my work is evaluated and how my grade is determined in this course.
N.9	Exams and assignments are announced in advance and held as scheduled.
N.10	Feedback on my work is constructive and helps me learn.
N.11	Different types of assessments are used to measure my learning in this course.
N.12	My instructor promotes academic integrity and takes effective steps to prevent cheating.
N.13	I have observed or heard about cheating on exams and/or assignments in this course.
N.14	The instructor provides timely feedback and guidance when I request help.

Diversity Issues / Respect / Rapport

Items O.1-O.9

Item	Evaluation Item
O.1	This class supports learning and encourages students to openly share ideas and ask questions.
O.2	My instructor encourages a collaborative learning partnership between students and the teacher.
O.3	My instructor listens carefully to my questions and comments.
O.4	My instructor encourages mutual respect for all students and values diverse perspectives.
O.5	My instructor is open to questions and constructive criticism in class.
O.6	My instructor does not show favoritism when dealing with students.
O.7	My instructor maintains a positive rapport with students and helps me feel like a valued member of the class.
O.8	My instructor demonstrates cultural awareness and considers students' backgrounds when teaching this course.
O.9	My instructor does not tolerate discrimination or harassment in this course.

General Student Perceptions

Items P.1-P.13

Item	Evaluation Item
P.1	The class size (number of students) in this class supported my learning.
P.2	The classroom, facilities, and/or online technology used in this course supported my learning.
P.3	I have access to the resources needed for this course.
P.4	The course description accurately reflects what is taught in this course.
P.5	The amount of work required for this course for the course level and credit hours.
P.6	The material in this course is presented at a level that supports my learning.

P.7	Attending class and participating in this course helps me understand the course material.
P.8	My instructor communicates clear expectations for how to succeed in this course.
P.9	My instructor demonstrates interest in the subject they are teaching.
P.10	My instructor uses engaging and creative approaches to help students learn the course concepts.
P.11	My instructor treats students respectfully and fosters a positive learning environment.
P.12	The instruction in the course helps me to understand and apply key concepts.
P.13	Overall, I would recommend this course and/or take another course from this instructor.

Student Participation and Effort

Items Q.1-Q.12

Item	Evaluation Item
Q.1	This course challenges me and motivates me to learn.
Q.2	This course encourages me to think independently and develop original ideas.
Q.3	The course encourages me to apply what I'm learning.
Q.4	My instructor presents course concepts in engaging ways that keep me involved in learning.
Q.5	My instructor motivates me to do my best work in this course.
Q.6	This course motivates me to think about course concepts even when I'm not in class.
Q.7	I look forward to attending this class, and the sessions feel worthwhile.
Q.8	I actively participate and put my best effort into work for this course.
Q.9	The workload in this course is manageable.
Q.10	Interacting with classmates in this course contributes to my learning.
Q.11	This course has been intellectually engaging and deepens my interest in the subject.
Q.12	My instructor supports my learning and helps me understand important concepts.

Broadening Student Outlook / Personal and Social Growth

Items R.1-R.6

Item	Evaluation Item
R.1	This course encourages me to consider different perspectives.
R.2	This course motivates me to reflect on my own assumptions or prior viewpoints.
R.3	This course increases my understanding of social, cultural, or ethical issues.
R.4	This course helps me feel more confident in my abilities.
R.5	This course helps me better understand my own interests or strengths.
R.6	This course helped build my skills in evaluating creative or artistic work.

Student Outcomes

Items S.1-S.15

Item	Evaluation Item
S.1	This course helped improve my writing skills.
S.2	This course helped me learn to write for different purposes or audiences.
S.3	This course helped me organize my ideas clearly and support a main point.
S.4	This course helped me evaluate and revise my own writing.
S.5	This course improved my oral communication or presentation skills.
S.6	This course improved my ability to gather, evaluate, and use information from multiple sources.
S.7	This course improved my critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
S.8	This course helped me learn to analyze problems and communicate my ideas effectively.
S.9	This course helped me manage long-term assignments, research projects, or multiple deadlines.
S.10	This course helped me plan and organize my work effectively.
S.11	This course improved my ability to use technology to support my learning.
S.12	This course helped me learn through the effective use of visual resources.
S.13	This course improved my mathematical and/or quantitative skills.
S.14	This course helped me learn to work effectively as part of a group.
S.15	This course improved my understanding of key concepts in this subject.

Laboratory Courses

Items T.1-T.12

Item	Evaluation Item
T.1	Lab procedures and expectations are clearly explained in advance.
T.2	My lab instructor demonstrates thorough understanding of the experiments and equipment.
T.3	My lab instructor is available and provides helpful guidance during lab sessions.
T.4	Pre-lab lectures and materials help me understand the experiments.
T.5	I am able to complete the lab activities within the time provided.
T.6	Lab experiences help me understand and clarify lecture material and course concepts.
T.7	Lab assignments are graded using clear criteria, returned within a reasonable time frame, and provide helpful feedback.
T.8	The lab has adequate facilities and equipment to complete the experiments.
T.9	Lab safety regulations are strictly enforced.
T.10	This lab is a worthwhile part of the course.
T.11	I would recommend this lab instructor to other students.
T.12	Lab assignments are interesting, stimulating, and contribute to my learning.

Clinical Courses

Items U.1-U.12

Item	Evaluation Item
U.1	The clinical or field experiences in this course provide adequate time for me to complete required skills and activities.
U.2	The clinical or field experiences in this course provide sufficient opportunities for me to learn and practice key skills and concepts.
U.3	Clinical or field experiences are well integrated with the rest of the course and are appropriate for the course level.
U.4	I receive adequate supervision and support during clinical/field experiences to help improve my skill level.
U.5	My instructor demonstrates clinical techniques clearly and explains underlying rationale, to help me improve my skills.
U.6	Clinical experiences reinforce clear expectations and guidelines for ethical and professional behavior.
U.7	This course helps me develop my ability to effectively present and discuss clinical cases.
U.8	My performance in clinical or field settings is evaluated using clear and consistent criteria.
U.9	Group meetings and related learning activities contribute to my development of knowledge and skills for this course.
U.10	I receive adequate supervision and support during clinical/field experiences to help improve my skill level.
U.11	My clinical instructor helps create a professional and supportive learning environment.
U.12	I am given responsibilities in clinical/field settings that are appropriate for my level of skill and experience.

Performing Arts and Studio Arts Courses

Items V.1-V.18

Item	Evaluation Item
V.1	This course balances artistic philosophy with practical craft.
V.2	Performance or art projects in this course are valuable learning experiences.
V.3	Performance or art projects in this course are appropriate for the level of the course.
V.4	In this course, I was exposed to a variety of performance or art techniques.
V.5	My instructor encourages creativity and originality in my work.
V.6	My instructor identifies and helps me address technical problems in performing difficult material.
V.7	My instructor demonstrates professional skill and expertise as an artist.
V.8	My instructor provides clear directions and guidance for performing new material.
V.9	My instructor demonstrates techniques clearly and concisely.
V.10	My instructor influences the development of my artistic skills and understanding.
V.11	My instructor helps me develop my artistic standards and values.
V.12	Rehearsal or practice experiences help me develop my artistic skills and think about new ways to approach my work.

V.13	Performance requirements are achievable in the time allotted.
V.14	Performances give me the opportunity to demonstrate what I have learned in this course.
V.15	Rehearsal or practice experiences help prepare me for my future profession.
V.16	Rehearsal or practice time is used effectively.
V.17	Instructor critiques and feedback are constructive and help me improve my work.
V.18	The practice or studio facilities for this course are well equipped.

Online Courses

Items W.1-W.8

Item	Evaluation Item
W.1	The organization and structure of this online course support my learning.
W.2	My instructor is responsive to student needs and adapts their instruction to support student learning.
W.3	Technical support staff are available and help me when I need assistance.
W.4	Technology used in this online course functions reliably and helps support my learning.
W.5	Online interactions with my instructor support my learning.
W.6	Online interactions with other students in this class support my learning.
W.7	Instructional materials and course information (such as calendars and announcements) are readily available in this online course.
W.8	Assignments, exams, and other graded work are returned in a reasonable amount of time and help me understand my progress in this online course.

Service Learning Courses

Items X.1-X.9

Item	Evaluation Item
X.1	Learning in this service-learning course was more meaningful to me, than in other non-service-learning classes I've taken.
X.2	I took more responsibility for my learning in this service-learning course than I typically do in non-service-learning classes.
X.3	The service-learning projects were clearly connected to the course content.
X.4	I felt my contributions to the community were meaningful and appreciated.
X.5	My instructor provided clear expectations and guidance for the service-learning projects.
X.6	Reflecting on my service-learning experiences helped me understand what I was learning in this course.
X.7	This service-learning course helped increase my understanding of diverse populations and their needs.
X.8	This service-learning course helped me realize the importance of helping others throughout my lifetime.
X.9	I think it would be worthwhile for all students to take a service-learning course.