



# Adjusted Scores in Student Ratings of Instruction

IDEA's instruments adjust for student and course characteristics beyond an instructor's control.



**Adjusted scores** may raise your scores some to account for those things beyond your control. For instance, in a course where a large number of students report low motivation for the course, your scores may be adjusted upward to account for the low motivation. The purpose of adjusting scores is to level the playing field when comparisons need to be made between instructors teaching different kinds of classes.

## What gets adjusted?

## What variables determine adjustment?

### Diagnostic Feedback

- Average student ratings of progress on each relevant learning objective and the average score
- excellent teacher ratings
- excellent course ratings

- student background preparation
- work habits
- motivation
- course difficulty
- class size

### Learning Essentials

- Average student ratings of progress on each relevant learning objective and the average score
- excellent teacher ratings
- excellent course ratings

- student background preparation
- work habits
- motivation
- class size

### Teaching Essentials

- excellent teacher ratings
- excellent course ratings

- student background preparation
- work habits
- motivation
- class size

The default view you are shown in your reports is this adjusted score, but you can choose to view your Raw Averages if you wish by simply toggling the View option.

View: **Adjusted Averages**  
Raw Averages

Progress on Relevant Objectives

Your Average:

4.1

Converted Average Comparison:

49

Progress on Relevant Objectives

Your Average:

4.4

Converted Average Comparison:

58

# One Way

## What's New?

In older versions of IDEA reports, adjusted scores could not only raise scores, but also lower them when students and courses had characteristics that were associated with higher ratings. When ratings are adjusted downward for reasons beyond the instructor's control

(e.g., a small class of highly motivated students with good work habits), teacher beliefs about the likelihood for success could be threatened, which could lower instructor motivation to try new methods and hinder future performance. Therefore, in the updated version of the report on the CL platform, **scores are only adjusted upward.**



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