

Evaluating Your Course

After you have made changes to your course based upon the new features and capabilities available in RamCT, re-examine your course goals and instructional objectives to make sure they're well supported by your content, activities, and assessments.

Take a step back and go through the course in the Student View. Be sure all links and images work correctly and that necessary tools are available.



Now that you have made your final review of your course, enlist a “fresh set of eyes” to evaluate for effectiveness and ease of use. Even without understanding content, another person can identify such problems as poor navigation, broken links, or long download times. Consider testing variables such as browsers, internet connection speeds, and operating systems to be sure students can view your course without technical difficulties.



Activity: Next Steps...Evaluate Your Course

After making changes to your course design, have another person review it before it goes “live.” Correct any errors or points of confusion before your students log in.

Use the **Course Evaluation Form** to pinpoint any weak areas. Keep in mind that a “no” answer may simply mean the criteria were not relevant to your course. You and your reviewer should complete the evaluation in order to compare the responses.

Ongoing Evaluation and Revision

Once you begin teaching with your course, your design and development tasks are not necessarily complete. The development cycle is an ongoing, interconnected process, and evaluation should be an integral component of this continuous cycle. By reviewing course results and feedback, you can improve the course each time it is offered.

Access data from RamCT's tracking tools to analyze *how* students are using your course. Use reaction surveys and assessment results to obtain useful information on how to improve your course.



Don't forget to talk to students who did NOT successfully complete the course. They may provide candid and valuable suggestions for improvement.

Reaction Surveys

As the word *reaction* implies, evaluation at this level measures how those who participate in the program react to it. You can obtain student reactions through formal surveys (Assessments tool) or by initiating a dialogue in Discussions or Mail. Reaction surveys only measure a learner's perception of the course. However, the interest, attention, and motivation of the participants are critical to the success of any training or educational program. People learn better when they react positively to the learning environment.

Assessment Results

Assessment results measure the extent to which your students improve their knowledge and skills as a result of their online experience. In a nutshell, assessments answer the question: Did the students learn what they were supposed to learn? Use the quiz tool to create pre- and post-tests or evaluate the quality of completed projects to determine if learning outcomes were met.

Back to the Drawing Board...Again?

Yes, again. Online courses almost always require modification each semester. As you receive feedback, you will be able to continually improve your course. With advancing technology and growing skills, you will also want to consider adding enhanced graphics, multimedia, and interactivity to your course.