

Virginia Tech

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ME4824: ME 4824: Intro Human-Robot Interaction-ME_4824_17515_202301
Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *
Response Rate: 14/16 (87.50%)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.71	5.27	5.12	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree	(5)	4	28.57%											
Strongly agree	(6)	10	71.43%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
14/16 (87.50%)	5.71	0.47	6.00	20791	5.27	1.05	6.00	2044	5.12	1.15	5.00			

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.43	5.07	4.91	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	7.14%											
Agree	(5)	6	42.86%											
Strongly agree	(6)	7	50.00%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
14/16 (87.50%)	5.43	0.65	5.50	20640	5.07	1.21	5.00	2029	4.91	1.31	5.00			

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.07	5.04	4.84	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	14.29%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	14.29%											
Agree	(5)	3	21.43%											
Strongly agree	(6)	7	50.00%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
14/16 (87.50%)	5.07	1.14	5.50	20641	5.04	1.24	5.00	2033	4.84	1.33	5.00			

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1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.77	5.36	5.20	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree	(5)	3	23.08%											
Strongly agree	(6)	10	76.92%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
13/16 (81.25%)	5.77	0.44	6.00	20631	5.36	1.02	6.00	2032	5.20	1.13	6.00			

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.46	5.06	4.90	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	7.69%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree	(5)	4	30.77%											
Strongly agree	(6)	8	61.54%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
13/16 (81.25%)	5.46	0.88	6.00	20542	5.06	1.25	5.00	2024	4.90	1.34	5.00			

2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate 12/16 (75%)

- The instructor provided clear lectures and relevant homework's to practice the course material. Office hours, when offered, helped instruction.
- Dr. Losey carefully explained each topic and ensured a majority of the class understood the subjects before moving on to the next subjects. Furthermore, the slide sets/practice problems were helpful. The slides were concise and covered the main concepts well. The practice problems helped solidify these main concepts and helped me before starting the homework problems.
- The lecture slides and the in-class questions
- Made sure the class understood each topic before moving on. There were a few classes where he identified student confusion on a topic presented on the class before, and reran through the subject in a different way, with new examples, that clearly improved the class's understanding
- Slides are made by himself, the practice problems are daily, presents background information on subject matter beforehand in videos to help us understand the topic much better
- Dr. Losey is an incredible teacher and is very knowledgeable in his field. The lectures were excellent and informative, videos kept me awake lol.
- Held constant office hours with good feedback, although you could have done it on another day that wasn't the afternoon on a friday. People who have more things to do will just never show up
- Work through practice problems in class. Lots of great visuals in slides to help explain tough concepts. Walking though step by step of pseudocode for algorithms
- Practice code after every lecture to better explain the concepts and relate theories to practice
- Really understanding of the class' level of understanding and adjusts teaching accordingly
- Posting slides, practice problems with answers in the document
- In class problem sets were helpful in solidifying conceptual understanding

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3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.64	5.14	5.05			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	7.14%	█							
Agree	(5)	3	21.43%	██							
Strongly agree	(6)	10	71.43%	██████████							
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)	5.64	0.63	6.00	19646	5.14	1.09	5.00	2012	5.05	1.12	5.00

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.43	4.89	4.79			
Disagree	(2)	1	7.14%	█							
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	7.14%	█							
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	1	7.14%	█							
Strongly agree	(6)	11	78.57%	██████████							
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)	5.43	1.28	6.00	19561	4.89	1.32	5.00	2006	4.79	1.36	5.00

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate 11/16 (68.75%)

- I could have payed more attention to the optional readings that were provided. They would have strengthened my knowledge in the course.
- I could have made sure to do my own research and complete the weekly readings. The topics are complex and without much of a background in HRI, I believe it would have been helpful to my understanding of some of the more complex topics.
- I should learn how to code in Python prior attending this class
- Started meeting and working on the group project far before I actually did.
- Done more of the readings
- Focus less on the visuals, more on the theory and methods. I can code, just not super strong with the thought process.
- Knew inherently how to do Python before I started the class
- I could have started homeworks earlier.
- More office hrs
- I needed more practice with python, should have done more to improve my skills
- N/A

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5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate 10/16 (62.5%)

- Professor Losey. Overall I have enjoyed these past two semesters taking your classes. For this class, my suggestion to undergraduate mechanical engineers would be ensure they are willing to put in the time and effort for this class to succeed. I will say that the learning curve for this class was higher than intro to robotics and automation. The material was more difficult to learn and the homework was more time consuming. And the test..... We don't speak about the test hahaha. With this class, I would recommend more office hour time if possible especially for any struggling ME undergraduates. Overall, I am glad to have taken this class, however, I will acknowledge that there was a lot of blood, sweat, and tears that went into it. Thanks professor for teaching me all that you have in this past year!
- Some of the homework sets had problems that were very difficult. Some homework sets took an entire week to complete and it did not give me much time to focus on senior design and my other classes. I believe having more options for office hours throughout the week would be helpful. Alternatively, making some of the homework sets a little shorter and simpler would be good too.
- This class is not suitable for people who never used Python to code before, it would take me 20-25 hours on average for each homework, due to the lack of knowledge in Python.
- n/a
- Dr. Losey has really helped me learn about robotics and machine learning. With everything I learned, I cant wait for work and then soon, grad school.
- It was very infuriating to have been expected to know Python before the class started. Given the complexity of the problems as well as the strictness of the TA's grading, you would think that Prof. Losey would go over some fundamentals in Python. Instead, he threw us straight into the deep end and wanted us to sink or swim. Some of us who are ignorant or plain stubborn have refused to give up, but our grades are tanking as a result. In addition, this class was marketed as a distinct difference between the undergrad and grad sections, but as far as I can tell, there isn't any. The only difference is 5 points extra curve for the undergrad students. Seeing as I am working with a grad student on the final project (which you gave permission for) the curve on the midterm is the only difference. Essentially, you're making undergrads take a harder class for no return, and you're giving the grad students an easier class with no downsides. Doesnt really seem fair to the undergrads. I very much respect you as a professor, but this sink or swim mentality makes me not want to take your classes again.
- He did a great job introducing us to topics many of us had never even heard of or had little understanding. Now I feel I have practical knowledge of the subject matter I could actually implement.
- What a G
- More office hours would be helpful
- N/A

6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Very Bad	(1)	0	0.00%			4.50	5.18	5.12			
Bad	(2)	1	7.14%	█							
Poor	(3)	3	21.43%	██							
Fair	(4)	3	21.43%	██							
Good	(5)	2	14.29%	█							
Very Good	(6)	5	35.71%	█████							
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)	4.50	1.40	4.50	19486	5.18	0.96	5.00	2002	5.12	0.98	5.00

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

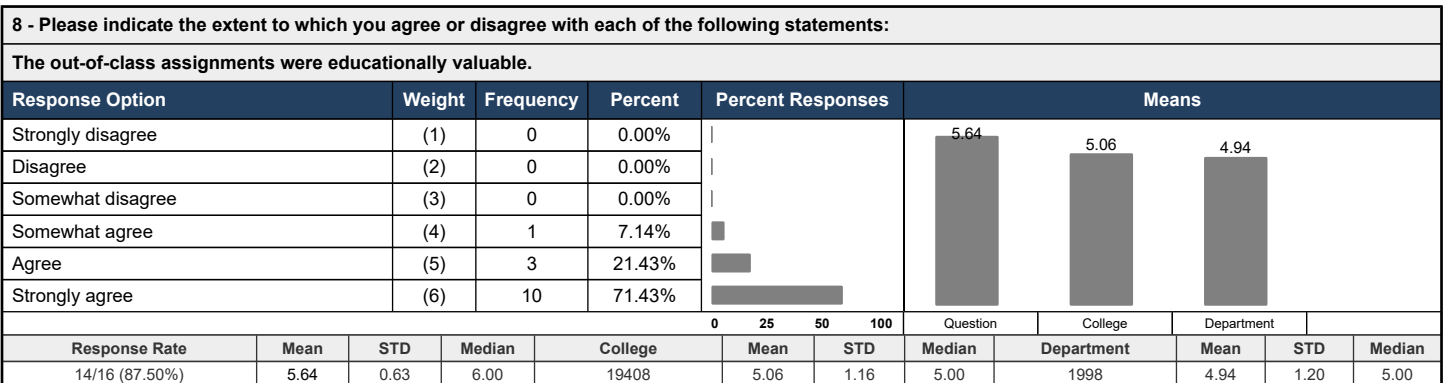
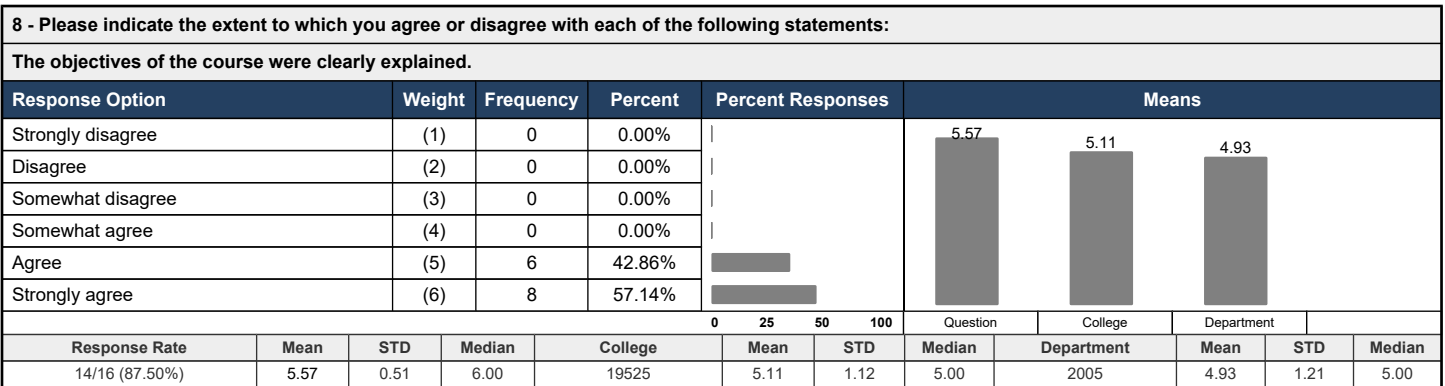
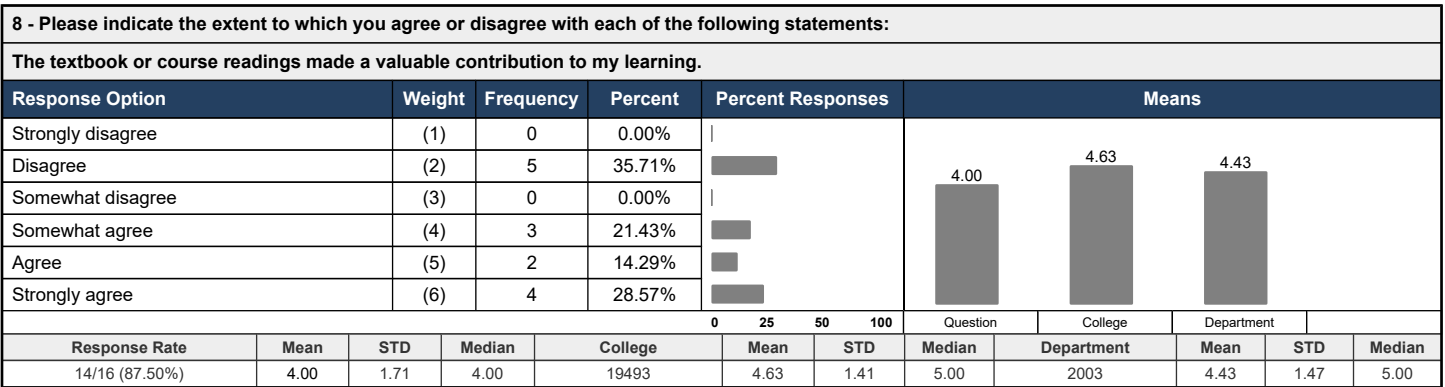
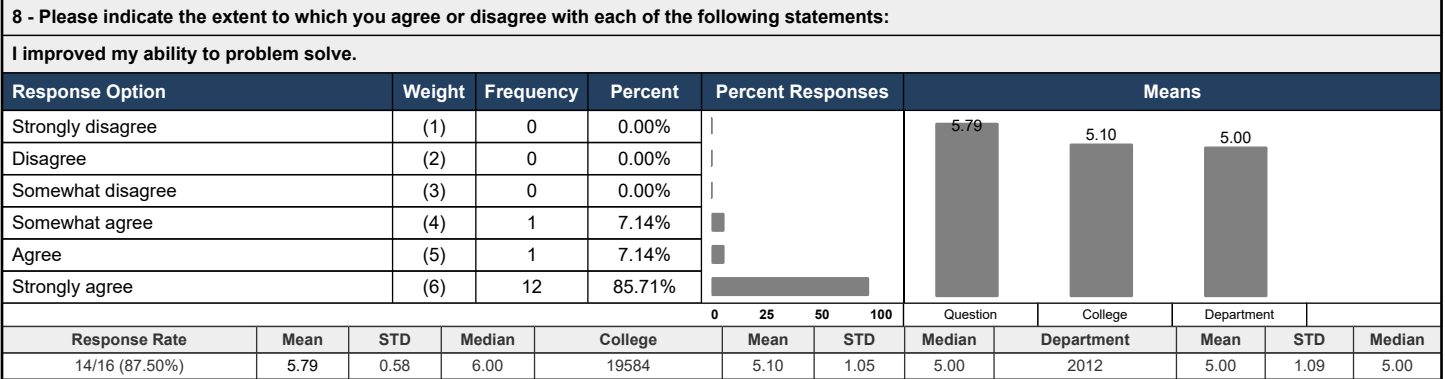
Response Rate 10/16 (62.5%)

- If possible move the class back to Goodwin but Randolph is an unpleasant environment
- N/A
- It has AC, but it is moist and smells bad
- Perpetually hot, had flickering lights that couldn't be fixed other than turning them off, and not enough outlets for the class's demand for computer usage.
- n/a
- I hate randolph, it is hot and makes me sleepy.
- It was in the crappy building of randolph, what do you expect? The lights are flickering and the entire building is falling apart. PUT THIS MAN IN GOODWIN FOR GODS SAKE
- Very few charging outlets made it tough to keep my laptop alive so many times it would die and I couldn't follow along as well to the practice problem demonstrations
- Light system sometimes does not work. Professor Losey tried to request maintenance several times at the beginning of the semester; however, the problem is yet solved till now. No outlet available for almost every seat in the room.
- N/A

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9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		6.00	5.30	5.16		Question	College	Department	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	0	0.00%									
Strongly agree	(6)	13	100.00%									
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
13/16 (81.25%)	6.00	0.00	6.00	20433	5.30	1.00	6.00	2015	5.16	1.12	5.00	

10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:

Articulate the challenges of developing algorithms that support human-robot interaction.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		3.71	3.71	3.71		Question	College	Department	
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%									
Good	(3)	4	28.57%									
Excellent	(4)	10	71.43%									
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.71	0.47	4.00	14	3.71	0.47	4.00	14	3.71	0.47	4.00	

10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:

Appraise and implement different methods that robots use to learn from human demonstrations.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		3.57	3.57	3.57		Question	College	Department	
Fair	(2)	1	7.14%									
Good	(3)	4	28.57%									
Excellent	(4)	9	64.29%									
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.57	0.65	4.00	14	3.57	0.65	4.00	14	3.57	0.65	4.00	

10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:

Use Bayesian inference to detect human intent and autonomously assist humans.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		3.50	3.50	3.50		Question	College	Department	
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%									
Good	(3)	7	50.00%									
Excellent	(4)	7	50.00%									
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.50	0.52	3.50	14	3.50	0.52	3.50	14	3.50	0.52	3.50	

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10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:
 Apply safe and optimal controllers so that the robots can safely but efficiently operate around humans.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			3.21	3.21	3.21				
Fair	(2)	1	7.14%	█								
Good	(3)	9	64.29%	███								
Excellent	(4)	4	28.57%	███								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.21	0.58	3.00	14	3.21	0.58	3.00	14	3.21	0.58	3.00	

10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:
 Combine human and robot control inputs for assistive autonomy tasks.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			3.43	3.43	3.43				
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%									
Good	(3)	8	57.14%	███								
Excellent	(4)	6	42.86%	███								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.43	0.51	3.00	14	3.43	0.51	3.00	14	3.43	0.51	3.00	

10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:
 Plan, conduct, and analyze a user study that involves human-robot interaction.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			3.50	3.50	3.50				
Fair	(2)	1	7.14%	█								
Good	(3)	5	35.71%	███								
Excellent	(4)	8	57.14%	███								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.50	0.65	4.00	14	3.50	0.65	4.00	14	3.50	0.65	4.00	

10 - At the end of this course, how do I rate my ability to:
 Assess the scientific merits and weaknesses of human-robot interaction research published in scholarly journals.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			3.21	3.21	3.21				
Fair	(2)	2	14.29%	█								
Good	(3)	7	50.00%	███								
Excellent	(4)	5	35.71%	███								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
14/16 (87.50%)	3.21	0.70	3.00	14	3.21	0.70	3.00	14	3.21	0.70	3.00	