Mid-Quarter Inquiries

Mid-Quarter Inquiries (MQIs) provide you with formative feedback that you can use to modify a course you are currently teaching. MQIs are available to full- and part-time faculty, Teaching Assistants, graduate student Associate Instructors (AIs) and Postdoctoral Scholars.

MQIs for faculty are conducted by CEE Specialists. After you have scheduled your MQI, a CEE Specialist will visit your classroom to gather anonymous feedback from your students during a class session. You will receive a complete, digital report 7-10 business days after the MQI was carried out. In a follow-up meeting, you and the CEE Specialist will meet to discuss the student responses and identify teaching practices that support or limit your students’ learning. Instructors commonly find that MQIs can help enhance teaching methods, promote greater student participation, and improve instructor-student rapport.

MQIs for Teaching Assistants, graduate student Associate Instructors, and Postdoctoral Scholars are conducted by the TAC Fellows and follow the same process described above.

Please note: As of Fall 2018, CEE has moved to an electronic MQI process as part of our effort to enhance our ability to provide access to this formative feedback process to a growing number of instructors in a timely manner. Please note the following changes to CEE’s MQI process:

- MQIs are limited to one per instructor per academic year.
- MQIs are now electronic only. In the electronic MQI, students provide feedback in the classroom via their electronic devices. Instructors who request an MQI should permit students to use web-enabled devices during the in-class portion of the MQI process. A CEE Specialist will prepare a digital report of your students’ responses and will email you a copy for your review and reflection before the MQI follow-up consultation.

When should I schedule an MQI?
To ensure that a CEE Specialist can attend your desired class session, you may wish to reserve your MQI near the beginning of the term or one to two terms in advance. Scheduling the MQI to take place during weeks 3 through 6 of the quarter is recommended to allow you to make any desired changes to your course before the end of the academic term. After you submit your request through the CEE website, a CEE Specialist will contact you to schedule the MQI and the MQI follow-up consultation.

What happens during the MQI?
MQIs take between 15 to 20 minutes of class time, depending on class size. Most MQIs are done at the beginning of class, although it is possible to schedule your MQI at the end of class, if necessary. With the instructor and TAs out of the room, the CEE Specialist asks students to respond to three prompts:
What helps you learn in this class:
What limits your learning in this class:
What suggestions do you have for your instructor:

The CEE Specialist will send you a complete, digital report via email, along with reflection questions about your student learning goals and student responses to your teaching, that will help you prepare for the MQI follow-up consultation.

Which types of classes are eligible for MQIs?
Faculty and Instructors of Record: At this time, MQIs are available for the main lecture portion of the class only. We do not currently provide MQIs for discussion sections, labs, and studios for faculty and instructors of record.

Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars: MQIs may be administered to sections, labs, and studios to obtain feedback for graduate student TAs and Postdoctoral Scholars who are responsible for the teaching in these settings.

What is the timeline for MQIs?
We will do our best to accommodate your dates for an MQI. However, should you wish to do your own MQI, here is a sample MQI Form used during the in-class visit. Feel free to administer these questions to your students yourself and request a general consultation with a CEE Specialist to discuss the results. Note: Instructors who elect to offer their own version of the MQI should supply results to the CEE Specialist they will meet with prior to the consultation, if possible.

What happens during the follow-up consultation?
The CEE Specialist will send you a complete, digital report via email, along with some reflection questions, before the MQI follow-up consultation. The report and the reflection questions will help you prepare for the meeting. During the follow-up consultation, the CEE Specialist will discuss with you the student feedback and assist you in prioritizing any changes you would like to implement. Consultation topics range from general suggestions about how to increase student engagement to more targeted suggestions about how to incorporate specific, evidence-based teaching practices into your teaching.

Instructors can use the comments to guide decisions about the course and their teaching both in the near and long term. Noting the consultation and describing your student feedback can also be a useful item to include in your teaching portfolio or professional dossier.