Tips for Using Class Insights

Class Insights provides a powerful way to evaluate student performance on questions and topics throughout the course. Because this tool is completely customizable to your classroom needs, there are numerous ways it can be put into action.

Start by Building a Foundation for Success

- Configure the settings to best suit your classroom setup and goals. You can set the number of attempts to use for status and flagging calculations, the status icons you want visible depending on the percentage of topic questions answered correctly, and when questions are flagged for review based on the percentage of students answering them incorrectly.

- Drop students from the roster who are no longer in the class to keep the data easy to read.

- Encourage all your students to register for WebAssign for a complete picture of course performance.

- Assign the correct GradeBook category to homework or tests to keep the report organized so you can easily compare performance across assignment types.

7 Tips to Make the Most of Class Insights

Address Concepts Students Don't Understand

- Class Insights lets you quickly identify which textbook topics are confusing your students, based on the number of attempts to correctly answer questions.
- Schedule a diagnostic test for the first day of class to establish in which prerequisite topics students are weak and adjust lectures to meet newly realized needs.
- Determine how much time to spend reviewing previous topics before an exam.

> *"I use Class Insights to help zero in on which sections of the book, topics, and questions are problem areas for my students, then build my review based on that."*
>
> **Daniel Roddin**
> Minnesota School of Business

Review Homework Assignments

- Use the Class Insights overview to pinpoint flagged questions that caused trouble for a large percentage of the class.
- Take the first five minutes of class to review these flagged questions without having to ask students which questions caused problems.
- Reassign flagged homework questions on practice assignments, or build a practice test before an upcoming test or exam with these questions.

> *"I use Class Insights to see what questions students are having problems with and then go over those problems in class."*
>
> **Mary Margarita Legner, Ph.D.**
> Riverside City College

Show Results to the Class

- Students often believe they understand material better than they actually do. Display first-attempt data to your class to highlight recent performance and increase awareness of topics they may need to study further.
- Use results to constructively reinforce a positive correlation between strong homework performance and high test grades.
- Make students aware you are monitoring homework results to encourage assignment completion. Just be careful to not show any screens that may violate student privacy regulations.

> *"With Class Insights I was able to present my class the findings that approximately 90% of all students showed mastery of the content on homework by the second attempt. Sharing this data empowered the students and reinforced the validity of using two attempts on the assessment. I also use Class Insights to see overall insight to student progress and performance."*
>
> **Jennifer Henderson**
> Paradise Valley Community College

Pinpoint Good Test Questions

- Identify fair exam questions by seeking problems striking a difficulty balance or that were answered correctly by the better performing students in class, and incorrectly by those not performing as well in the class.

- Determine the right number of attempts to offer on the test by monitoring patterns on number of attempts used on the homework, and identifying the number of attempts that strikes a good balance for the goals of your course.

> *"I use Class Insights to decide whether more time should be spent on certain topics, and to get a feel for how fair a question would be for an exam."*
>
> **Professor of Mathematics**

Improve Teaching Strategies

- If you are trying a new teaching style for a particular topic, assess the effectiveness of your teaching by comparing student performance from the new teaching style to performance from other sections where the topic was taught a different way.

- If you teach multiple sections, compare concept mastery across sections to assess whether a different teaching method was used that may have resulted in better student understanding.

- As a course coordinator, compare results across faculty members to assess teaching effectiveness. Note this will be effective only if instructors are using the same homework assignments.

> *"Class Insights shows the performance analysis for each problem graphically. Using this feature I can get quick feedback so that I can easily adjust my class pace accordingly in time. "*
>
> **Xingzhou Yang, PhD.**
> Mississippi State University

Identify At-Risk Students

- Identify students who may be at risk to fail upcoming tests by noting students who often use a large number of attempts on the homework. Reach out to provide early assistance to these students or suggest practice assignments before it is too late.

- Build equally weighted groups for team projects by organizing students into teams with a mix of students who did well and those who struggled on homework assignments.

Proof of Achievement of Learning Objectives

- Gather end-of-course performance data at the objective level to report results back to others within the university.