

Evaluation report Computational Structural Optimization

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The evaluation committee has evaluated the course Computational Structural Optimization by sending an online questionnaire / handing out a paper questionnaire to 88 students. 24 students filled in the questionnaire, which gives a response of 27%. According to [1] for this number of students a response rate of 23% is required for adequate results. Hence, the outcome of this report can be considered as representative.

The course Computational Structural Optimization scores an average of 3.2, which is insufficient for a master course. 'During the lectures, the subject became clear to me' and 'The study material (written and electronic) covered the subjects sufficiently' score lowest with a 2.1 and a 2.2, respectively. 'The learning outcome of the course is relevant for my academic development' scores highest with a score of 4.5.

Students claim that the lectures were chaotic and that they missed the overview throughout the lecture. This was mainly due to the lecture sheets that contained a lot of information. Most of the information was about derivations of formulas, which most students could not quite follow during the lecture time. Also, students indicate that only the lecture sheets were available as study material. The rest of the study material they had to find themselves, since no reader or book was available. Students say that they would really appreciate a reader since they have to look up too much information on the internet themselves.

Looking at the recommendations of the previous evaluation, it can be concluded that the study material is still not improved, since there is still no reader available. The preparation and details of the presentation seem to be improved, but maybe too much, since now there is too much information in one lecture. There are no comments on the announcements made outside of BlackBoard this evaluation.

These are the main conclusions of the evaluation. The interpretation is based on the remarks of the respondents. For an overview of the results, see the graph at the end of this report.

Recommendations of previous evaluation

The last evaluation was in 2013

- Make a reader in which a detailed explanation is given on crucial subjects.
- Prepare the lectures better, in order to tell more details on difficult subjects.
- Put announcements on BlackBoard

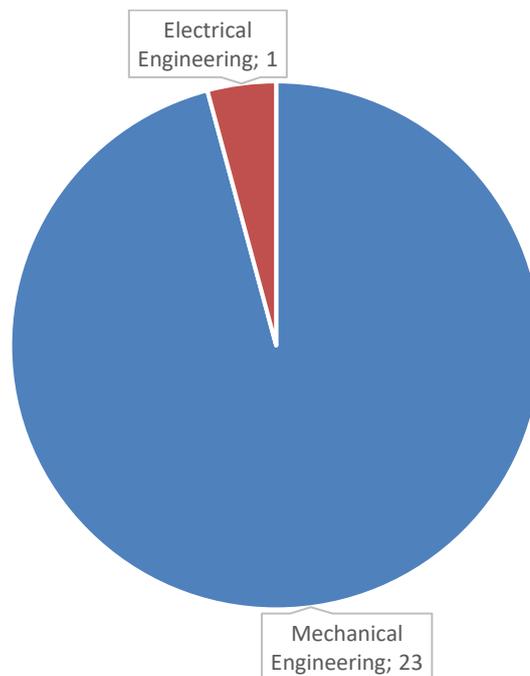
¹ Nulty, D.D. (2008). The adequacy of response rates to online and paper surveys: What can be done? *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 33, 301-314.

Recommendations by the committee

The quality of the course can be improved. Based on the results of the questionnaire, some recommendations for improvement are provided. The most important recommendations are:

- Write a reader, so that students do not have to look so much information up on the internet.
- Make the lecture sheets clearer.

Composition of respondents



Overview

- All marks are given on a Likert-scale from 1-5. For master courses, a mark of 3.5 or higher is sufficient.
- The height of the bars in the graph represents the mark. The thin line at the top of the bars gives the standard deviation.

