An **instructional challenge** is a problem or obstacle that hinders students as they attempt to achieve a learning outcome. Identifying instructional challenges that affect a course is the first step toward finding solutions for them.

If the instructional challenge is **not applicable to you**, please circle **NA**. For example, if the challenge pertains to online courses, and you don't teach an online course, circle NA.

0 = **not** a problem 1 = a **slight** problem

4 = a **severe** problem

- 2 = a **moderate** problem 3 = a **serious** problem
- If the instructional challenge does affect one of your courses, then **circle a number** whatever number corresponds to its severity.

	Instructional challenge	Severity of the challenge						
Motivation	1. My students come to class unprepared (for example, without having finished assigned readings).	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	2. My students seem uninterested in the course content.	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	3. My students don't ask questions during class.	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	4. My students don't participate in class discussions	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	5. My students don't participate in online discussions .	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	 My students are reluctant to engage in group work when I ask them to do so. 	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	7. My students drop out of the course before completing it.	0	1	2	3	4	NA	
	8. My students lack confidence in their ability to master the course content.	0	1	2	3	4	NA	

	9. My students just want to know "the right answer."	0	1	2	3	4	NA
Attitudes	10. My students submit plagiarized work or cheat during tests.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	 My students think the course content is not relevant to their program, career, or life. 	0	1	2	3	4	NA

Learning skills and preparedness	12. My students have pre-existing misconceptions about the course content that interfere with their learning.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	13. My students have difficulty breaking down their assignments into manageable chunks .	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	14. My students seem to forget one unit of material shortly after we move on to a new one.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	15. My students underestimate how much time they need to devote to assignments.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	16. My students lack background knowledge for the course.	0	1	2	3	4	NA

	17. I find it difficult to assess a student's contribution to in-class discussion .	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	 I find it difficult to assign grades to individual students who have worked on a group project. 	0	1	2	3	4	NA
Assessment	19. I have too many students to provide personalized feedback to all of them.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	20. My students don't read the feedback that I (or my teaching assistants) put on their assignments.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	21. After I finish giving a lecture, I can't tell whether my students have really understood the material.	0	1	2	3	4	NA

	22. I have too many students to make in-class discussions feasible.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
Class size	23. I have too many students to make in-class group work feasible.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	24. I have too many students to make online discussions feasible.	0	1	2	3	4	NA

Logistics	25. I spend too much time responding to phone calls or emails from my students.	0	1	2	3	4	NA
	26. The size and setup of the classroom are not good for group work.	0	1	2	3	4	NA

The Instructional Challenge Survey was developed by Dr. Mark Morton in the Centre for Teaching Excellence at the University of Waterloo. <u>www.markmorton.ca</u>