December 23, 2020

Shengyang (Travis) Cao
travis.cao@wisc.edu

Dear Shengyang (Travis):

Due to the COVID-19 disruption, UW-Madison scheduled classes using a hybrid model for Fall semester 2020, with many classes being taught online. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in adapting to teaching online and contributing towards a successful fall semester. With this information in mind, the Department of Economics Teaching Assistant Review Committee examined student and faculty evaluations of your teaching performance during the Fall 2020 semester. It is a pleasure to inform you that the excellence of your teaching during the semester warrants a citation as a "Distinguished Teaching Assistant." The Committee concluded that you were one of the truly outstanding TAs in the spring semester. Being a highly successful TA involves considerable effort and dedication. You have made a substantial contribution to the quality of our teaching program. We extend our congratulations and believe that your performance augurs well for your future, especially in the classroom. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

The Committee thought it might be helpful for each TA to have the following information:

Fall 2020 Question (#6) Frequency Distribution of Average Scores on "Rate Performance	
Range	Number of TA's Receiving this Average Score
4.6 – 5.00 (Distinguished)	8
4.2– 4.59 (Excellent)	30
3.5 – 4.19 (Good)	28
3.0 – 3.49 (Satisfactory)	2
Below 3.0	1

Average TA rating on this question was 4.2

Copies of this letter, the faculty evaluation, and student evaluation summary will be included in your file.

Sincerely yours,

Chao Fu
Mary Claire Aschenbrener Phipps Professor
Chair, TA Review Committee

University of Wisconsin Madison
Survey Results Aggregate

Fall 2020 End of Semester TA Evaluations Completed

📅 2020 Fall (1212) / Student Course Evaluation (End of Term) / Anonymous Survey

Course Assignments: 209 / Survey Participants: 4564

Schedule: 11/26/2020 to 12/11/2020

Results Available: 12/22/2020

📅 This survey completed on **Friday, December 11, 2020** at **11:59PM**.

Instructor:	👤 Travis Cao

📊 Survey Overview / Instructor Results Aggregate

38% Response Rate 38 of 99

TOTAL SURVEYS	99
SURVEYS COMPLETED	38
PENDING SURVEYS	61
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS	4
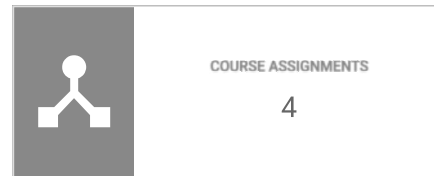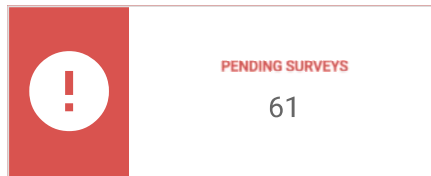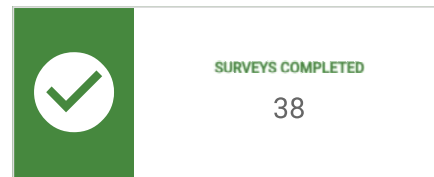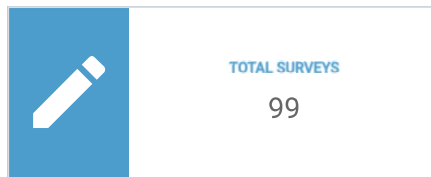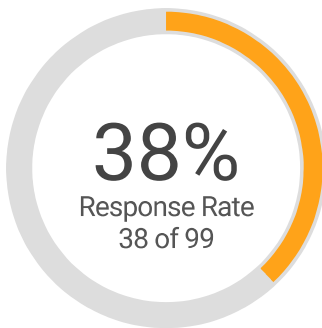
📊 Survey Metrics / Instructor Results Aggregate

rating

Avg	Min	Max	#Resp	Target	Success
4.79	1	5	38	NA	NA
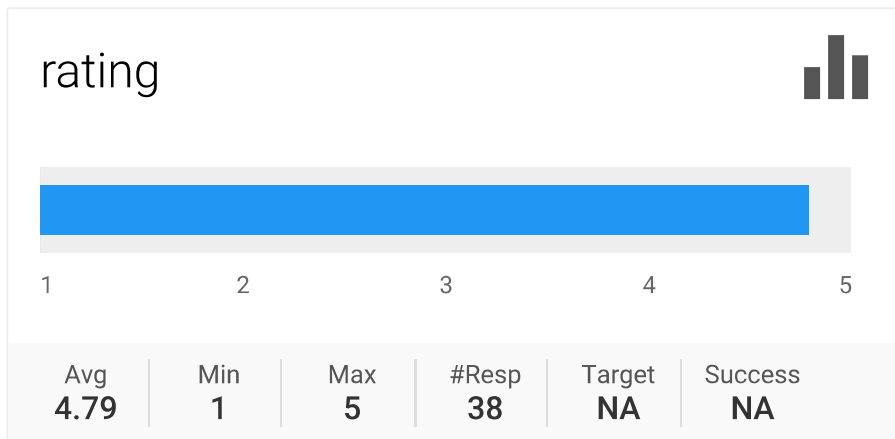
📊 Survey Data / Instructor Results Aggregate

I-Teaching Assistant

1 How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

👤 Travis Cao instructor

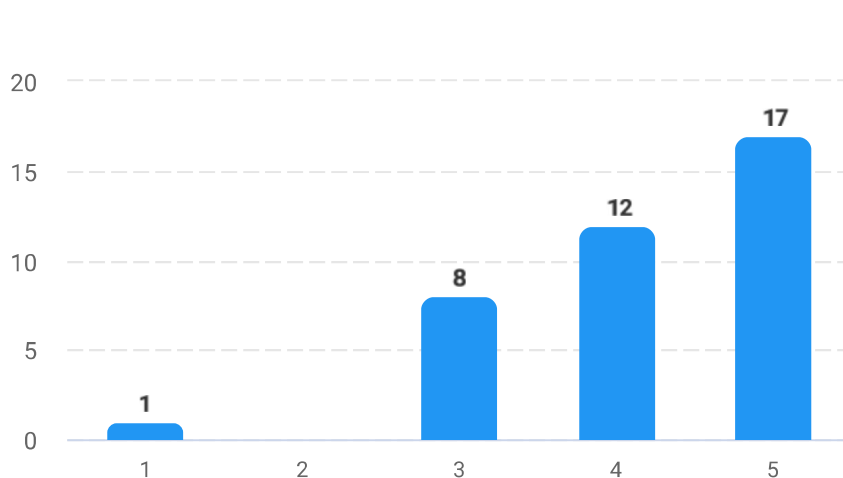| Value	Option	Total
1	None	1
2	One	0
3	Two - Five	8
4	Six - Ten	12
5	11 or more	17

Average	4.16
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.93
Variance	0.87

2 How would you rate the TA's ability to lead discussion or present material in your section?
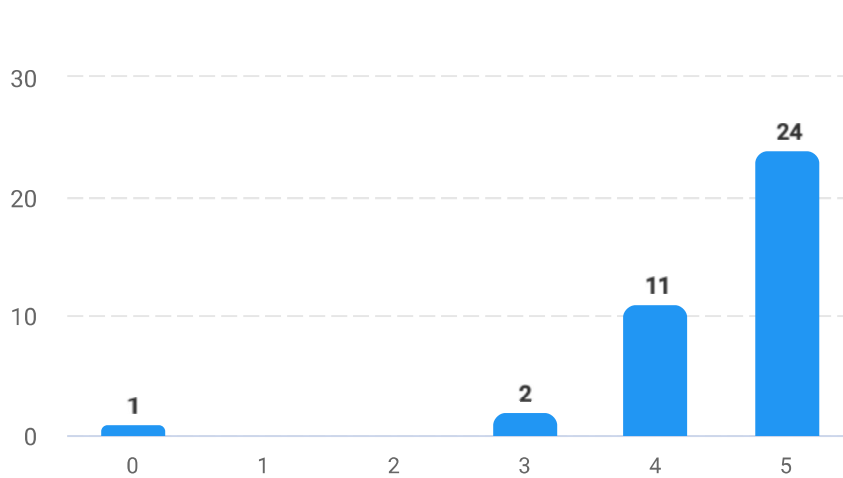
(Instructor Multi-Choice)

👤 Travis Cao instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	1
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	2

Value	Option	Total
4	Good	11
5	Excellent	24

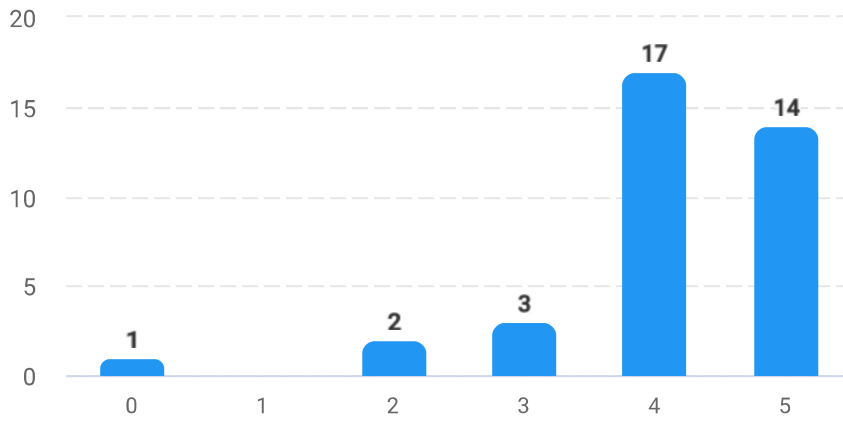|	
Average	4.59
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.59
Variance	0.35

3 Of those sections you have attended, what proportion were interesting and/or thought-provoking?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

👤 Travis Cao instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	1
1	Almost none	0
2	Few	2
3	About Half	3
4	Most	17
5	Almost all	14

	Average
	4.19
	Median
	4.00
	Mode
	4
	Std. Dev.
	0.81
	Variance
	0.66

4 Overall, what is your assessment of the TA's knowledge of the material related to this course?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

👤 Travis Cao instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	1
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0
4	Good	7
5	Excellent	30
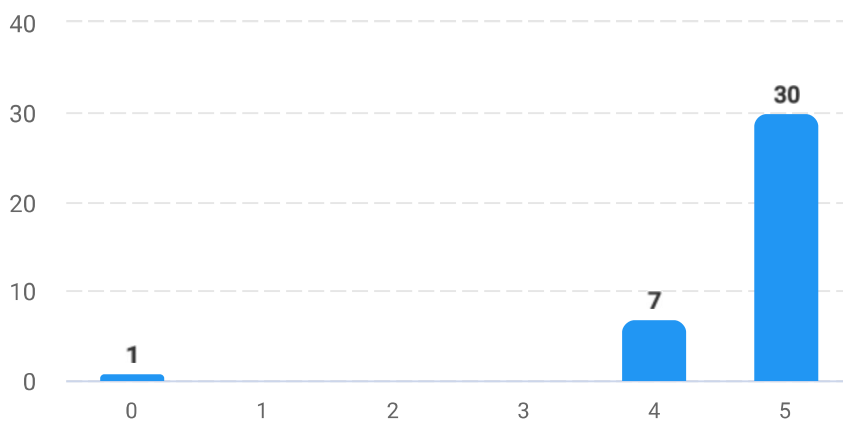
	Average
	4.81
	Median
	5.00
	Mode
	5
	Std. Dev.
	0.39
	Variance
	0.15

5 How responsive and helpful did you find your TA during office hours?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

👤 Travis Cao instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	12
1	Not at all helpful	0
2	Slightly helpful	0
3	Of average helpfulness	2
4	Better than average helpfulness	6
5	Extremely helpful	18

Average	4.62
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.62
Variance	0.39
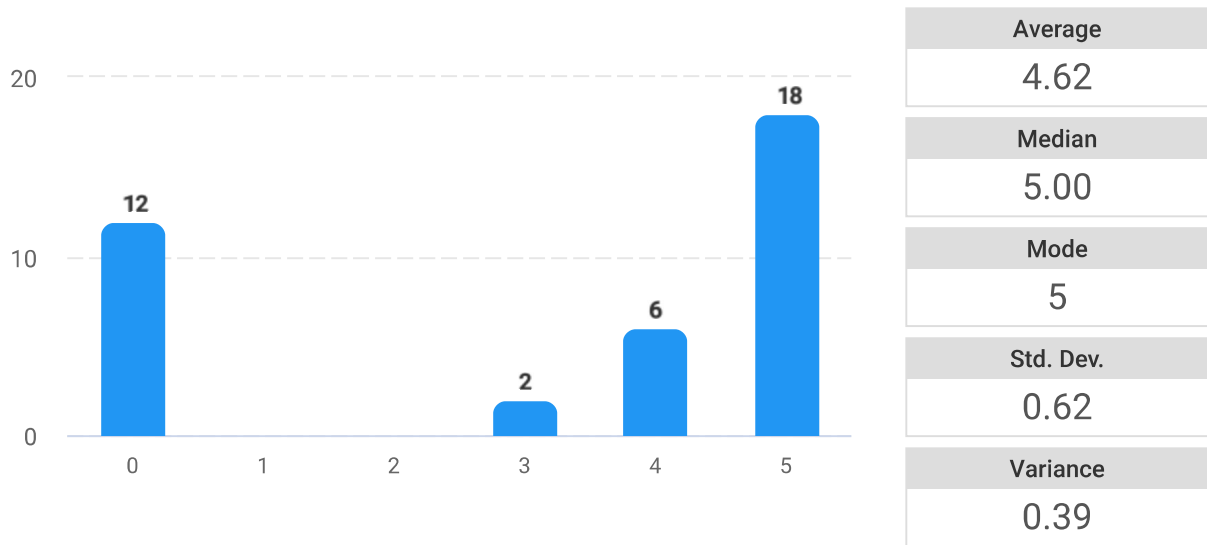
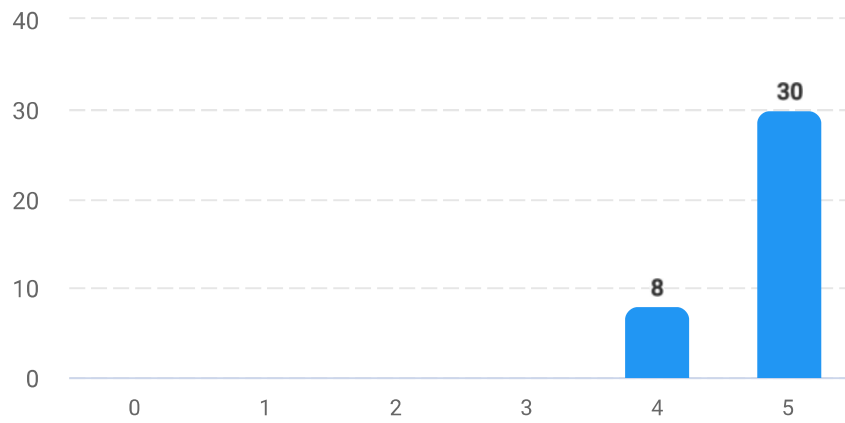**6** We know that how the professor conducts the course often influences what a TA is able to do in a course. Given the professor's role and the structure of this course, how would you evaluate your TA's performance?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

📊 rating

👤 Travis Cao instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	No Answer	0
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0
4	Good	8
5	Excellent	30

Average	
4.79	
Median	
5.00	
Mode	
5	
Std. Dev.	
0.41	
Variance	
0.17	

II-TA Open-ended Questions

7 Please comment on any aspects of the section which you consider particularly satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Since this information will be given to the TA for improvement in his or her teaching, be as specific as you can in discussing and evaluating any phase of the section: presentation, responsiveness to questions, command of material, organization, mannerisms, teaching aids, etc.

(Instructor Text/Memo)

Travis Cao instructor

- Travis is one of the best Econ TAs I've had.
- Travis presented the material in a very digestible manner, and was very receptive to questions. He was also very willing to help clear things up in office hours.
- Always available in office hours to gladly help with any questions Showed great enthusiasm about the material and willingness to teach students
- Travis was quick to answer emails and very helpful! Thanks for a great semester, Travis!
- Presentation is awesome - I really like how he writes on the page along with us to keep us following along. He explains things masterfully, so his command of the material is clearly phenomenal. He was always prepared and is really welcoming and responsive to questions! I found his discussion handouts to be really helpful in preparing for the exams in this class.
- well organized
- Travis was one of the best TAs I've ever had. Deep understanding of the material and a talent for teaching
- N/A
- Travis was extremely helpful and always willing to meet with students. He always responded to questions in a timely manner and made sure to be present the material in a different way if someone had trouble understanding it.
- I think Travis was great at explaining material in both section and office hours. He also made sure to ask if we had any questions, and even though mostly no one does, he still asks. I also appreciated the materials being so organized on canvas and up-to-date.
- Great at summarizing important concepts from class. There is a ton of information from lectures so it was helpful to take a step back and see what the main points were.
- Travis had very organized discussion sections that helped build on the material learned in lecture.
- Travis is one of the the best TA's I've ever had!!! I enjoy attending his sessions 100% - they are super enriching and efficient. He reviews the course material in the most effective way possible, and really helped me a lot in understanding the hard materials. He seems like a wonderful human being, and I would love to meet him in person if I could. We need more TA's like Travis. I'm really grateful for having met him. I believe he is going to be the best professor in the econ department if he by any chance decides to remain teaching.
- Easy to follow discussion sections for going through the problems. Very helpful audio explanations and written explanations.
- Travis was the best TA Ive ever had for an economics course. His synthesis of the material provided was incredibly helpful to me and gaining a bigger picture of how all the details fit together. He went through solving problems that were super helpful, and in a way that was really easy to not only follow, but then replicate for a different but similar problem. Travis really set up the students for success, particularly to do well with the problem sets. Thank you Travis!!
- Great examples and clear overview of methodology and reasoning for problems and concepts. Friendly and approachable for help. Responsive via email.
- Travis was a great TA. He was always willing to help answer questions and explain things related to the class. He was also willing to set up appointments outside of office hours which was extremely helpful. Travis gave great advice and overall cares about his students. Travis went above and beyond to help his students this semester and really wanted his students to succeed in the class.
- It was clear that Travis knew the material really well, but I found the structure of section a bit boring as he just solved problems on video. It is definitely hard to make section work in an online setting, but I did find the section to be a bit slow. However, his worksheets were really helpful for problem sets and the exam.
- Travis was very responsive, clearly knew the material, was very organized, and lead discussions very well. He was a great TA to have. The few times he had mistakes, he corrected them quickly.
- Understands the material very well, explains material in an easy to follow way, and is very responsive, clear that

- Understands the material very well, explains material in an easy to follow way, and is very responsive, clear that Travis wants to help the students do well.
- Keep up the good work! Travis was really resourceful and helpful
- The worksheets for discussion were great for reviewing the week's material and good for midterms. The discussions were always worth attending as they went though questiosn that would be helpful for exams and homework.

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ever material great
class
responsive set understanding found manner bit travis ta's

8 What, if anything, limited your participation in section? (TA's style, other students, course structure, time of section, lack of preparation, etc.)
(Text/Memo)

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