



January 30, 2023

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

Dear Shengyang (Travis):

The Department of Economics Teaching Assistant Review Committee has examined student and faculty evaluations of your teaching performance during the Spring 2022 semester. Your average score on the "rate performance" question (#6) was **4.95**. 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. This level of achievement involved a considerable commitment on your part. 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.

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

Fall 2022 Question (#6) Frequency Distribution of Average Scores on "Rate Performance"	
Range	Number of TAs Receiving this Average Score
4.73 - 5.00 (Distinguished)	16
4.43 - 4.72 (Excellent)	20
3.50 - 4.42 (Good)	26
3.00 - 3.49 (Satisfactory)	4
Below 3.0	1

Average TA rating on this question was 4.34

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

Sincerely yours,

Marek Weretka  
Stuart & Brenda McCroskey Professor of Economics  
Chair, TA Review Committee

# Fall 2022 End of Semester TA Survey Completed

2022 Fall / Student Course Evaluation (End of Term) / Anonymous Survey


Course Assignments: **214** / Survey Participants: **4771**

Schedule: 11/30/2022 to 12/14/2022

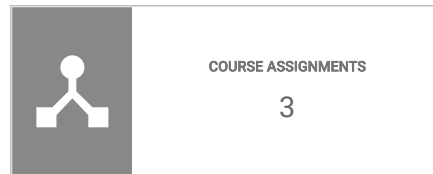
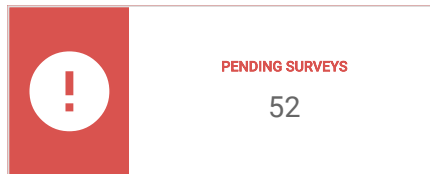
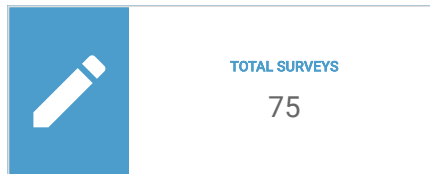
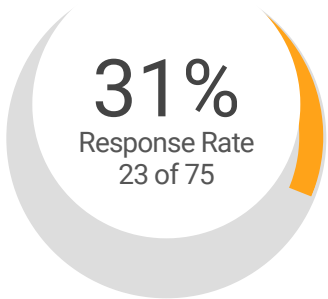
Results Available: 12/28/2022



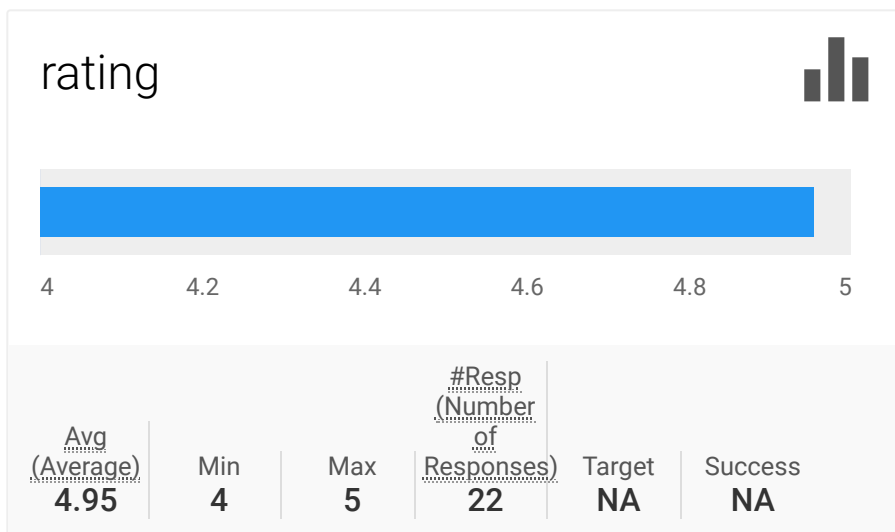
This survey completed on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 11:59PM.**

Instructor:  Travis Cao

## Survey Overview : Instructor Results Aggregate



## Survey Metrics : Instructor Results Aggregate



## Survey Data : Instructor Results Aggregate



# Section 1

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS TA EVALUATION

## I-Teaching Assistant

1

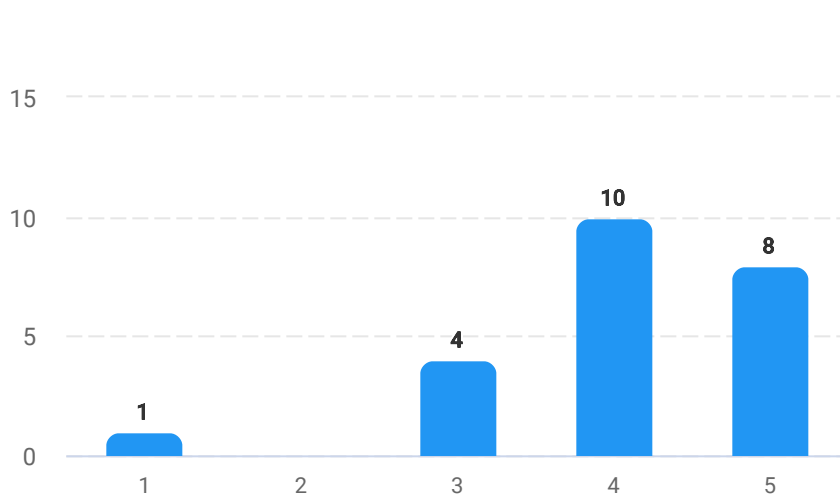
How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
1	None	1
2	One	0
3	Two - Five	4
4	Six - Ten	10
5	11 or more	8



Average	4.04
Median	4.00
Mode	4
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.95
Variance	0.91

2

How would you rate the TA's ability to lead discussion or present material in your section?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

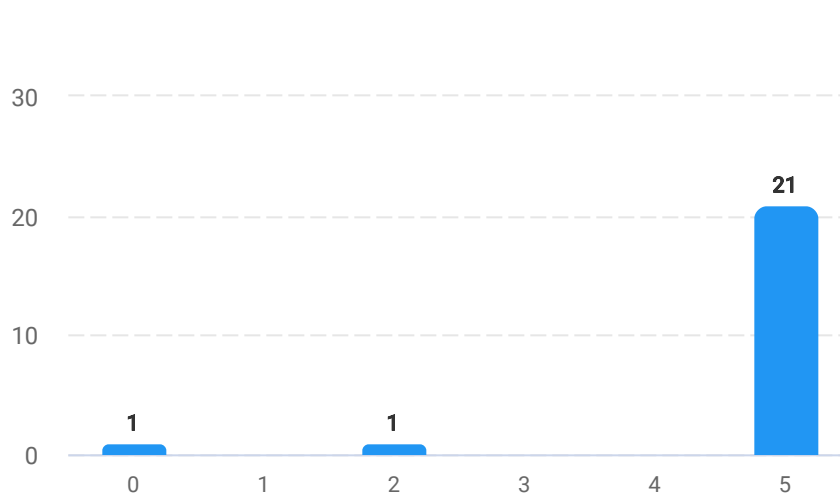


Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	1
1	Poor	0



Value	Option	Total
2	Fair	1
3	Average	0
4	Good	0
5	Excellent	21



Average	4.86
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.62
Variance	0.39

3

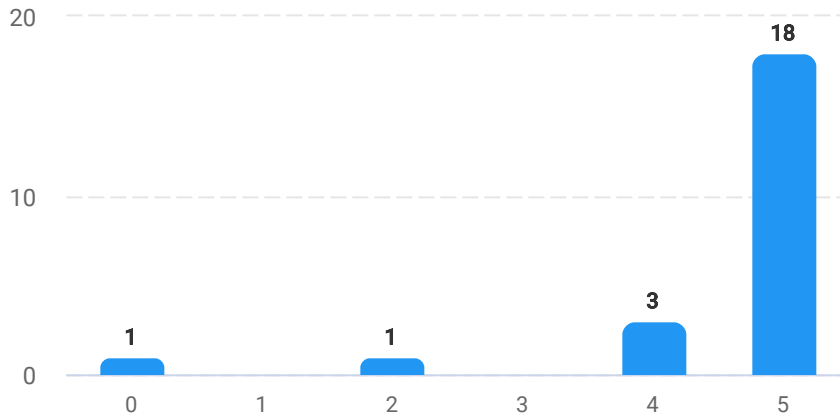
Of those sections you have attended, what proportion were interesting and/or thought-provoking?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	1
1	Almost none	0
2	Few	1
3	About Half	0
4	Most	3
5	Almost all	18




Average	4.73
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.69
Variance	0.47

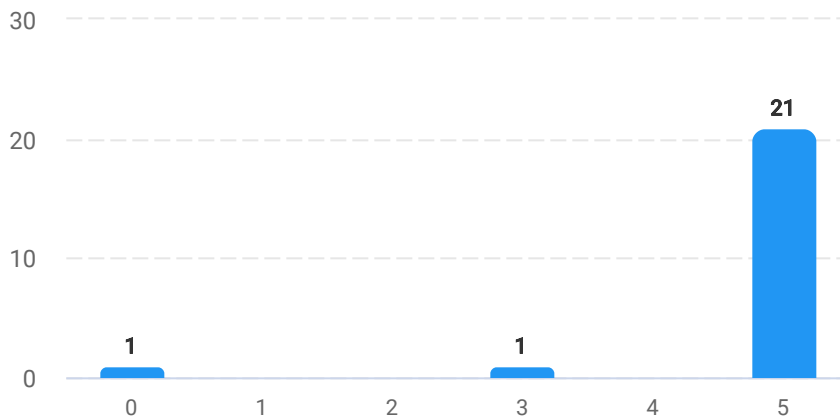
4

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	1
4 Good	0
5 Excellent	21



Average	4.91
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.42
Variance	0.17

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

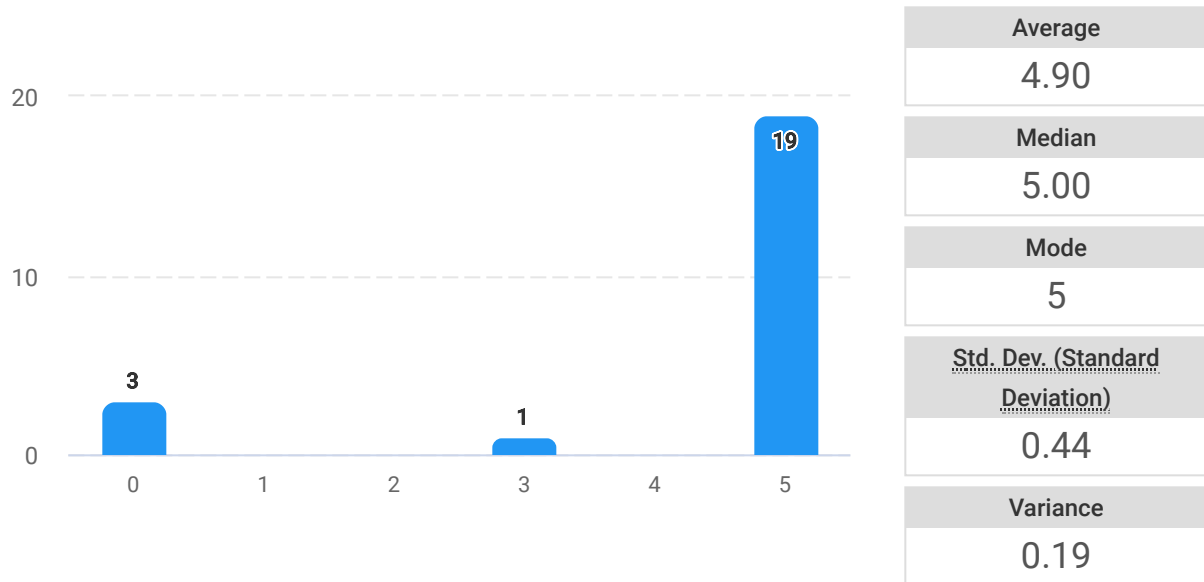
5

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	3
1	Not at all helpful	0
2	Slightly helpful	0
3	Of average helpfulness	1
4	Better than average helpfulness	0
5	Extremely helpful	19



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)

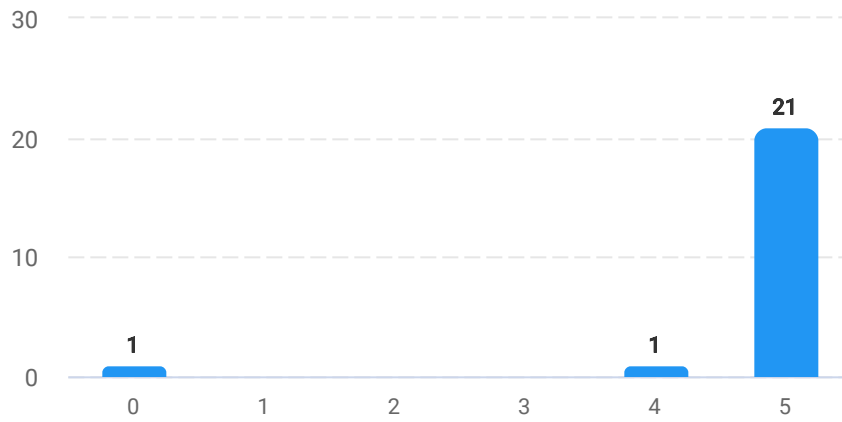
rating



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	No Answer	1
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0
4	Good	1
5	Excellent	21





Average	4.95
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.21
Variance	0.04

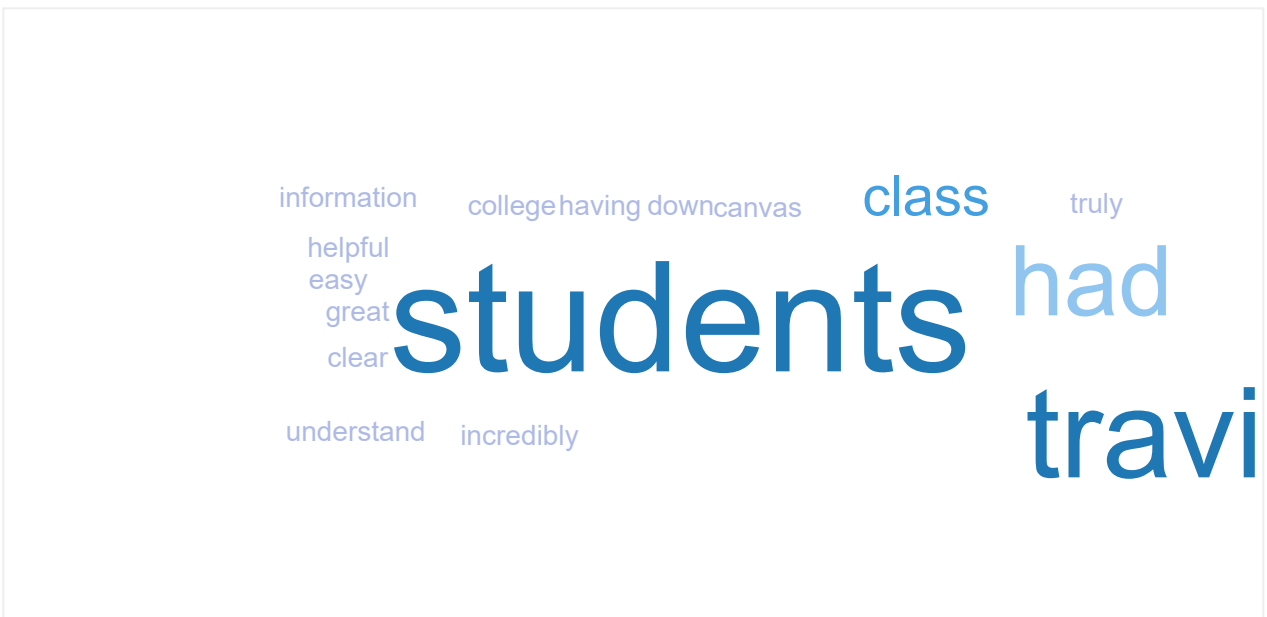
## II-TA Open-ended Questions

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)

- Love Travis. So smart and accommodating and nice. Truly the GOAT
- Travis you rock! Your website on canvas has saved me in this course.
- I really enjoyed having Travis as my TA. Most of the time in college the TA simply relay the information that the professor already explained in lecture, however, Travis would make sure we all understood completely. He would make new discussion packets that went into depth and broke down the topics. He was also always available with office hours and helped tremendously. I would take another course if he was my TA!
- The feedbacks on essays were very helpful. Give great advice to help me achieve in class.
- One of the best TA's I have ever had. His discussion sections were super easy to follow and if you attended his office hours he would always be willing to help out even on the smallest of questions
- Travis not only excelled at guiding through students the material in discussion section, but shined when working one-on-one with students. I can't recommend him highly enough. He was responsive, knowledgeable, and organized - everything a TA should be!
- Travis was probably the best TA I have had in college thus far. When class was confusing, attending discussion would always clear up my questions. The information was presented in a useful manner that made me understand the course.
- It is obvious that Travis wants his students to do well in the course and truly understand the material. He was incredibly accessible both in and outside of office hours as it was very easy for me to meet with him via Zoom (even on a weekend) and get the help I needed. Additionally, it was clear that he not only understood what he was teaching, but knew how to break it down in a way that was easier for students to comprehend. Making a resources for Travis's students page on the course Canvas site was also incredibly beneficial as it provided students with the necessary resources to best prepare for upcoming projects and exams.
- Appreciated the effort to make discussion resources available not exclusively in discussion.
- you did great and were very helpful
- I think he had a very good understanding of the material and was able to explain it well to the class. I felt like I understood the material better after going to discussion. He was organized and having the discussion videos available online was helpful when I had to miss discussion or when I wanted to review the material again.





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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