



May 10, 2021

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

Dear Travis:

Due to the COVID-19 disruption, UW-Madison scheduled classes using a hybrid model for Spring semester 2021, with many classes being taught online. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in adapting to teaching online and contributing towards a successful spring 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 Spring 2021 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:

Spring 2021 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)	17
3.5 – 4.19 (Good)	31
3.0 – 3.49 (Satisfactory)	0
Below 3.0	1

Average TA rating on this question was 4.24

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

### Spring 2021 End of Semester TA Evaluations

Pending Results

2021 Spring / Student Course Evaluation (End of Term) / Anonymous Survey

Schedule: 4/16/2021 to 4/30/2021

Course Assignments: 173 / Survey Participants: 3869

Results Available: 5/11/2021

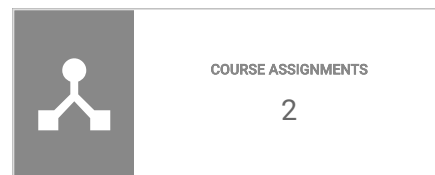
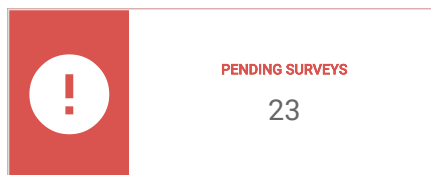
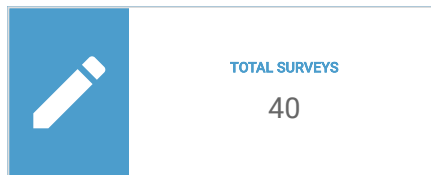
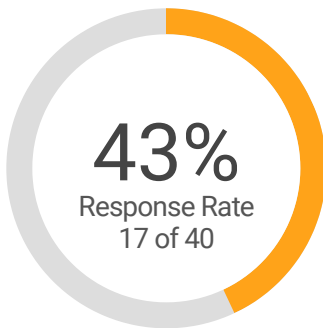


This survey has completed. However, results are not available for faculty to review until **Tuesday, May 11, 2021**.

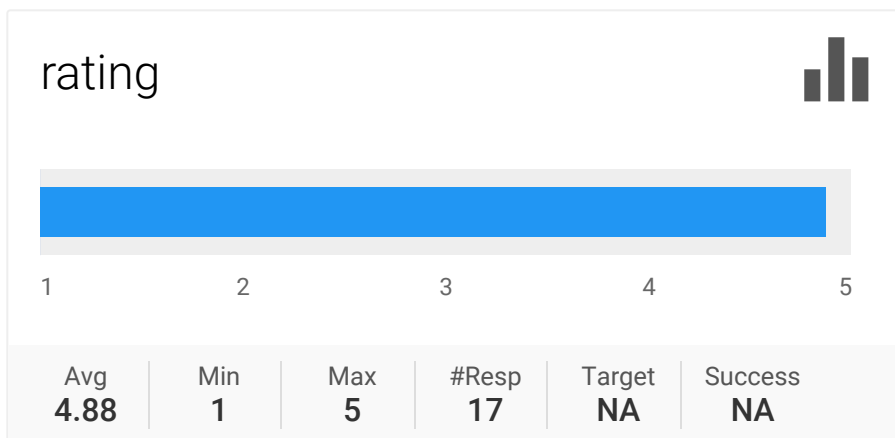
Instructor:

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

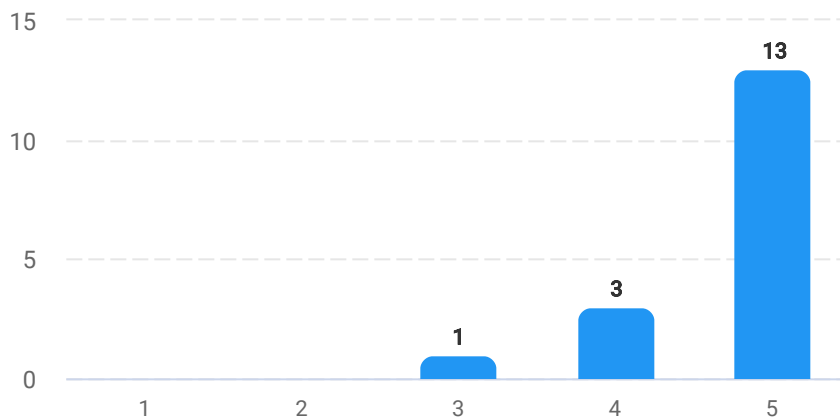
How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
1	None	0
2	One	0
3	Two - Five	1
4	Six - Ten	3
5	11 or more	13



Average

4.71

Median

5.00

Mode

5

Std. Dev.

0.57

Variance

0.33

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	0
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0



Value	Option	Total
4	Good	1
5	Excellent	16



Average
4.94
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.24
Variance
0.06

3

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

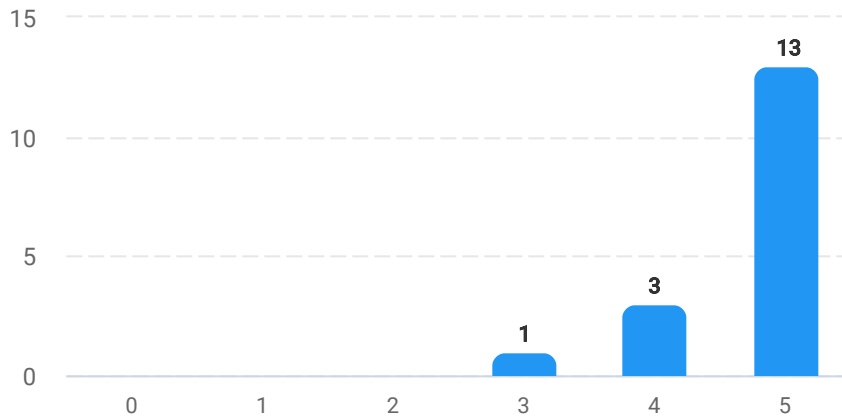
(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0
1	Almost none	0
2	Few	0
3	About Half	1
4	Most	3
5	Almost all	13





Average
4.71
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.57
Variance
0.33

4

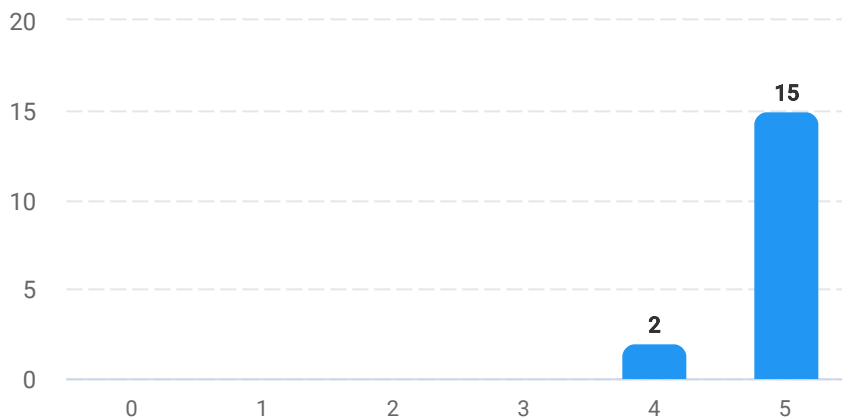
Overall, what is your assessment of the TA's knowledge of the material related to this course?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0
4	Good	2
5	Excellent	15



Average
4.88
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.32
Variance
0.10

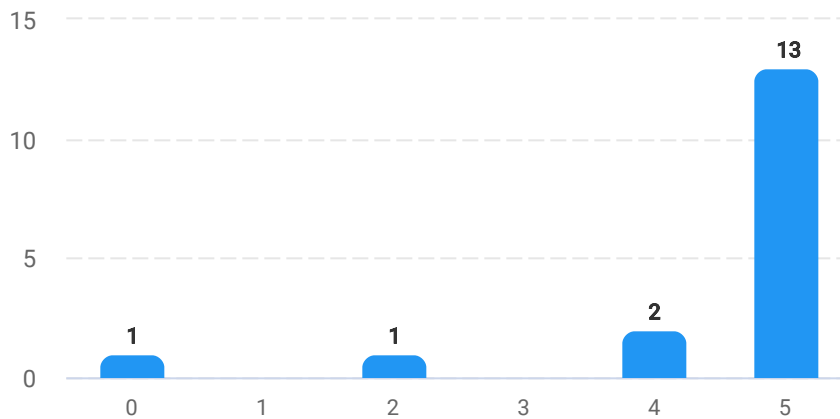
5

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

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	1
1	Not at all helpful	0
2	Slightly helpful	1
3	Of average helpfulness	0
4	Better than average helpfulness	2
5	Extremely helpful	13



Average
4.69
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.77
Variance
0.59

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

Value	Option	Total
0	No Answer	0
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0
4	Good	2
5	Excellent	15



Average

4.88

Median

5.00

Mode

5

Std. Dev.

0.32

Variance

0.10

## 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)





- Very helpful
- Travis was being really helpful. He always responded to students' questions timely with really specific explanations. He covered a lot of materials that professor skipped in lecture and provided pretty useful hints for weekly homework.
- Travis is one of the best TAs I have ever had in UW-Madison. He is very helpful whenever I needed his help with questions. I truly feel like I have learned most of my course material for ECON400 from him rather than the Professor. Travis is definitely very good at teaching and knows how to approach and work with his students very well.
- Travis has helped me with almost ALL assignments. He always responded to my emails in timely manner which I really appreciate despite him being a PHD student. He also always offer to revise any materials if we couldn't understand a specific topic.
- Travis was extremely helpful. He covered a lot of topics in discussion and always eased our workload and increased our confidence in the material! He always responded to emails as well.
- Travis rocks!
- Best TA I've ever had. Explained the material better than the professor. Responded promptly to all emails. Super organized and systematic in his teaching.
- Travis is probably the best TA I have ever had. If I was told Travis was going to be teaching the course next semester, I would not be surprised. He was incredibly helpful any time I asked and made the effort to explain things in a way I would understand. The discussion sections were well organized and he seemed incredibly knowledgeable about the content and went the extra mile to ensure we understood it. I would recommend this discussion to anyone taking this course. I have no criticisms, only praise. Big thanks to Travis, I would not have survived this course without him.
- n/a
- Professor Friedman was alright, Travis was phenomenal. By far the best TA I've ever had. I attended every discussion and just about every office hour (sorry Travis) and was always able to learn something new. Travis is the rare mix of high intelligence and practical teaching style to relate to the students. Was extremely hard working and really cared that everyone understood the material. The discussions were made clear through his handouts and the integration of concepts from his 410 class was very beneficial. I loved the layout and structure of the handouts half of it having conceptual points and the other half with application problems. Econometrics is a very beneficial course if you put in the effort to understand the material. Travis was really great about always being willing to help and quick to respond to emails with more than an adequate response really making sure you understood the concept.



course being teaching lot ever  
material **travis** had really  
helpful covered  
responded professor questions always

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)

### Word Cloud Not Available

No text to process or the text does not contain words occurring at least 2 times.



