



May 20, 2022

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

Dear 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 **4.77**. 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:

Spring 2022 Question (#6) Frequency Distribution of Average Scores on "Rate Performance"	
Range	Number of TA's Receiving this Average Score
4.68 – 5.00 (Distinguished)	14
4.38 – 4.67 (Excellent)	20
3.48 – 4.37 (Good)	27
3.0 – 3.47 (Satisfactory)	0
Below 3.0	0

Average TA rating on this question was 4.37

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

Sincerely yours,

Charles Engel
Professor, Donald D. Hester Distinguished Chair
Chair, TA Review Committee



May 19, 2022

Shengyang (Travis) Cao
Social Sciences Building

Dear Shengyang (Travis),

Congratulations on being the recipient of the Juli Plant Grainger Teaching Excellence Scholarship! This is a monetary scholarship of \$2000. This scholarship will be paid as a lump sum. As a recipient of this scholarship, you will be listed on the department website.

We extend our warmest congratulations and wish you continued success in your teaching.

Sincerely,

Ananth Seshadri
Professor and Department Chair
Director, MS Program
Todd E. & Elizabeth H. Warnock Distinguished Chair
Department of Economics

University of Wisconsin Madison

Survey Results Aggregate

Spring 2022 End of Semester TA Survey Pending Results

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


Course Assignments: **182** / Survey Participants: **3814**

Schedule: 4/22/2022 to 5/6/2022

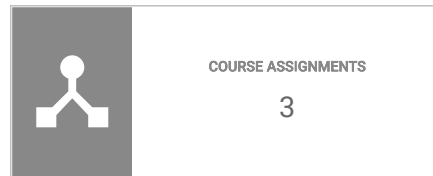
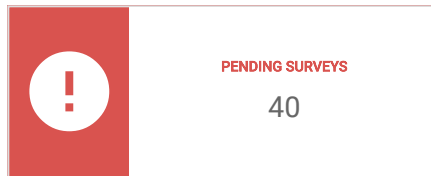
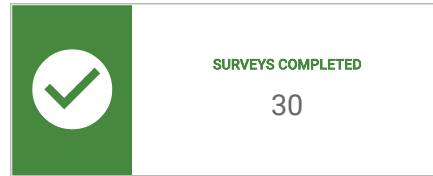
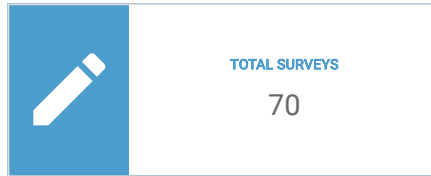
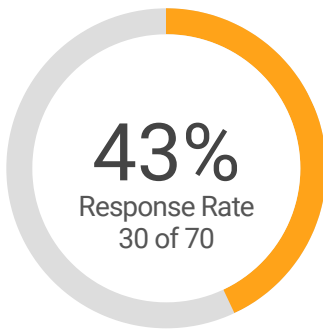
Results Available: 5/17/2022



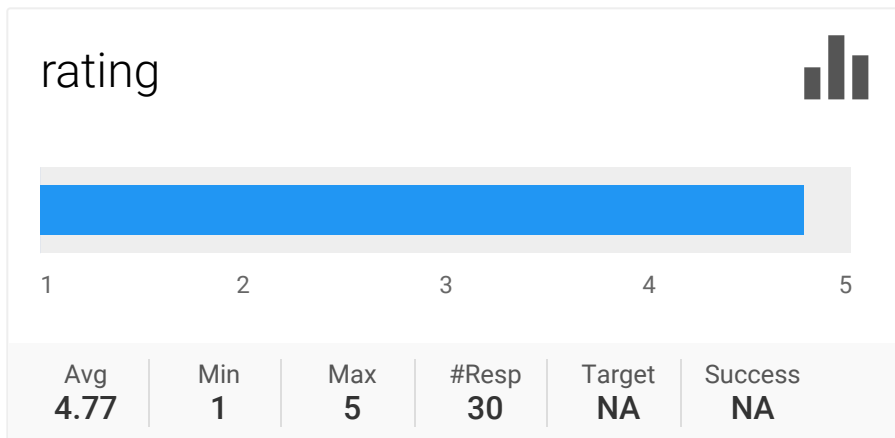
This survey has completed. However, results are not available for faculty to review until **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**.

Instructor:  Travis Cao

Survey Overview / Instructor Results Aggregate



Survey Metrics / Instructor Results Aggregate



Section 1

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS TA EVALUATION

I-Teaching Assistant

1

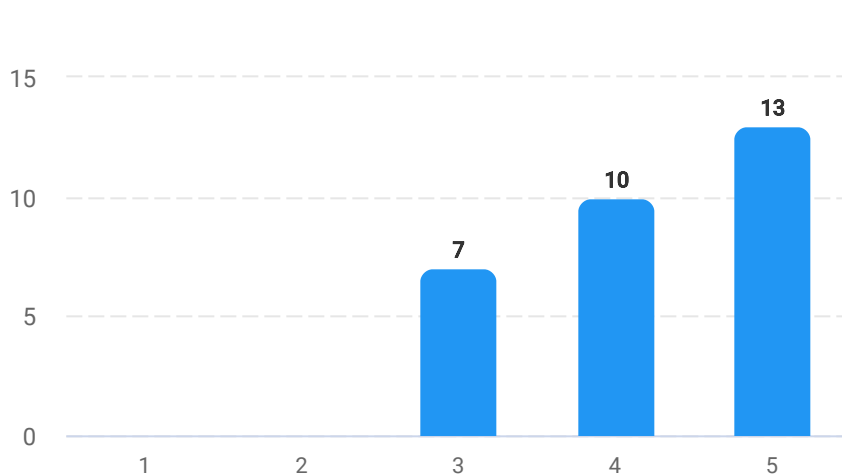
How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
1	None	0
2	One	0
3	Two - Five	7
4	Six - Ten	10
5	11 or more	13



Average	4.20
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.79
Variance	0.63

2

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

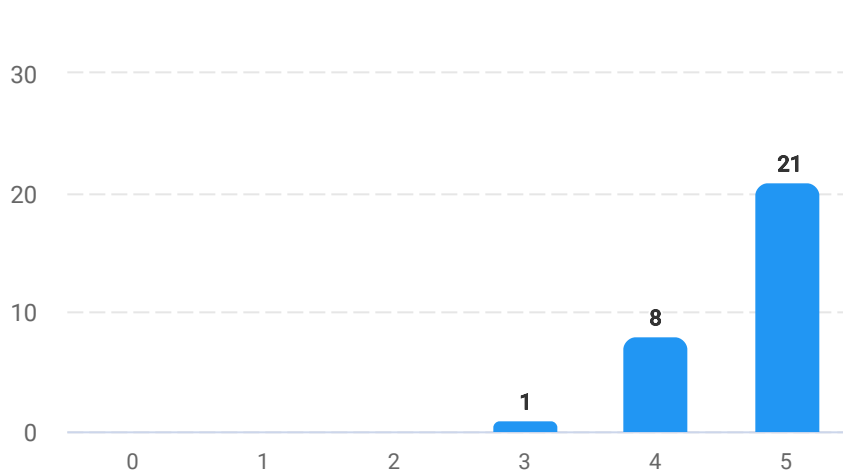
(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0

Value	Option	Total
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	1
4	Good	8
5	Excellent	21



Average	4.67
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.54
Variance	0.29

3

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

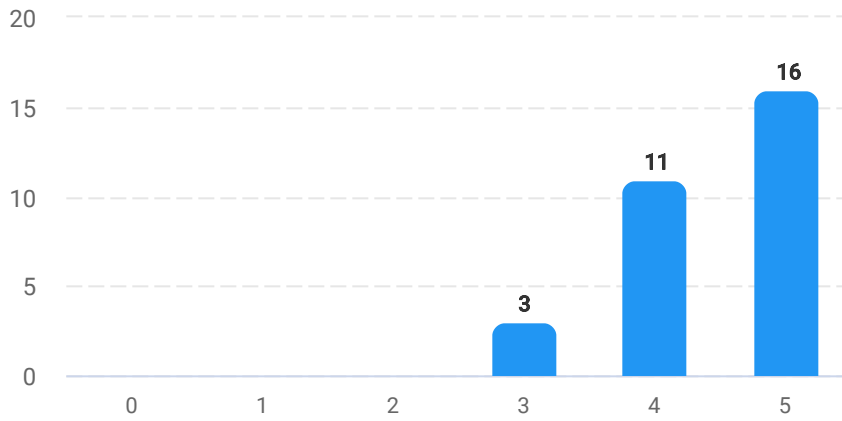
(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0
1	Almost none	0
2	Few	0
3	About Half	3
4	Most	11
5	Almost all	16





Average	4.43
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.67
Variance	0.45

4

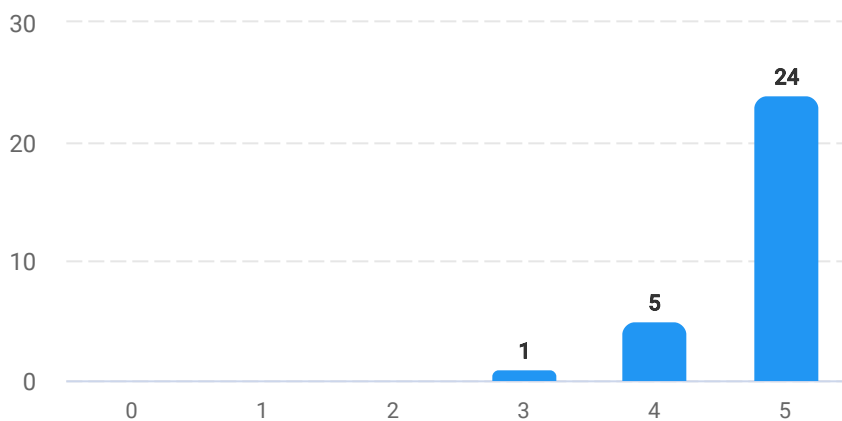
Overall, what is your assessment of the TA's knowledge of the material related to this course?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	1
4	Good	5
5	Excellent	24



Average	4.77
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.50
Variance	0.25

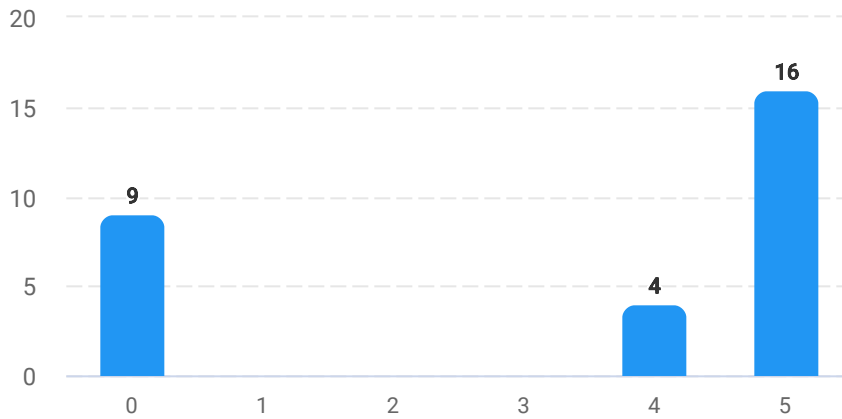
5

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

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	9
1	Not at all helpful	0
2	Slightly helpful	0
3	Of average helpfulness	0
4	Better than average helpfulness	4
5	Extremely helpful	16



Average	4.80
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.40
Variance	0.16

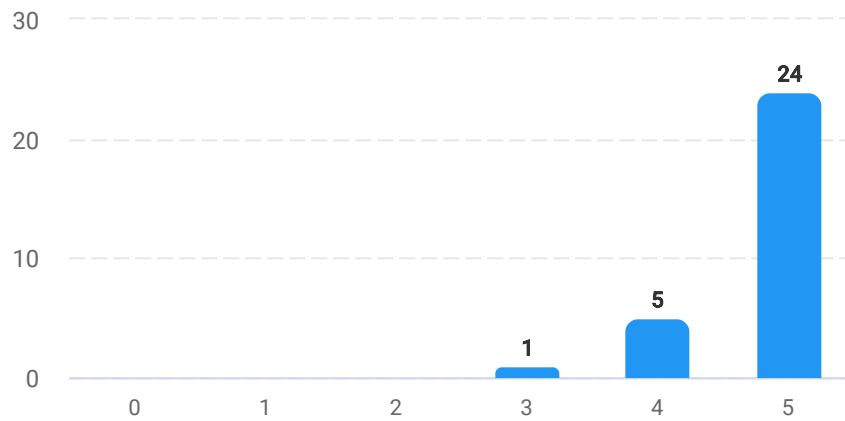
6

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	1
4	Good	5
5	Excellent	24



Average	4.77
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev.	0.50
Variance	0.25

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)



- He was great in helping explain complex topics.
- I love how he recorded discussions. I went to most of the discussions in person but having the recorded option made exam prep better.
- Travis was extremely helpful during discussion and is the most prepared ta I have had. He was so well organized by printing off his own version of discussion section worksheets that were always available for students and he was really easy to follow during discussion. Travis's responses to emails were amazing as he thoroughly covered all of the questions I had for him and more.
- Travis is one of the best TAs that I have had at UW. His discussions are always well-structured and his use of technology helps greatly in hammering through the theories and concepts. He always provides a timeline for due dates before starting discussions which helped me a lot in organizing and managing myself.
- Nice structure of each discussion and I can review important material covered in each classes and gain some new understanding. It's so helpful to have recordings for each discussion too!
- Travis was an A+ TA. He really knows his stuff, is super approachable, and presents in a very clear manner.
- First off, I love that Travis records the discussions and posts them online. Not only is it a great way for me to go back and listen to what he had to say about a specific topic, but if there was also a day where I may not have been feeling 100% I wouldn't feel like I was missing out on content and falling behind. I also really like the handouts he made. To have all of the weeks content summarized at the top and then exercises afterwards was really helpful for this course.
- N/A
- I really liked Travis. I ended up not going to lecture and instead just going to discussions because they were so great. Travis went above and beyond to give discussion handouts even more detail and notes than what Dr. Pac provided. He was great when walking us through Stata as well. Nothing but a positive experience in discussion/lab.
- Awesome TA with helpful notes.
- Recorded section was a nice resource, brought things down a level from where Pac would put them sometimes
- You're great!
- Travis presented class material in a succinct, clear manner. He organized calculations and processes to make them more manageable. Travis was also incredibly responsive to student needs and accurately responded to students' questions.
- It was very nice that the sections were recorded. It was super useful to reference them.
- He made the course much easier to understand. Thank you for that.
- Travis was the most clear and helpful TA I have had at UW madison s far.
- Travis Cao is one of my best TA I've met at UW-Madison.
- Personally, I loved the discussion worksheets we had that went over the relevant chapters for the week, this helped me expand my knowledge regarding the chapter and how to solve some problems.
- Travis was one of the best TA's I have had in class here at UW-Madison. His canvas resources are extremely helpful, including the fantastic recordings of his discussions. He explains difficult concepts very well. My experience with Travis as my TA could not have been more satisfactory!

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great travis
recorded extremely uw duringhelped had mad

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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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