



June 14, 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 2023 semester. Your average score on the "rate performance" question (#6) was **4.79**. 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 Score |
| 4.70 - 5.00 (Distinguished) | 16 |
| 4.30 - 4.69 (Excellent) | 22 |
| 3.50 - 4.49 (Good) | 23 |
| 3.00 - 3.59 (Satisfactory) | 1 |
| Below 3.0 | 0 |

Average TA rating on this question was 4.36.

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



June 14, 2023

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

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,

Christopher Taber
Chairman, Department of Economics
James J. Heckman Professor and Walker Family Distinguished Chair

Spring 2023 TA End of Term Survey Completed

📅 2023 Spring / Student Course Evaluation (End of Term) / Anonymous Survey

Course Assignments: 186 / Survey Participants: 3920

Schedule: 4/21/2023 to 5/5/2023

Results Available: 5/20/2023

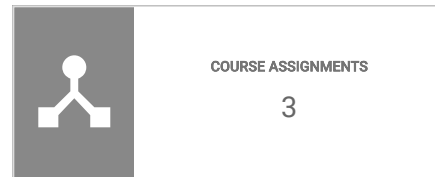
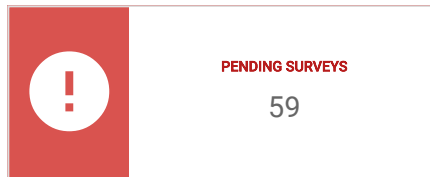
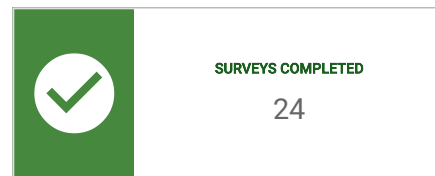
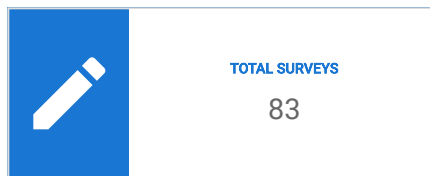
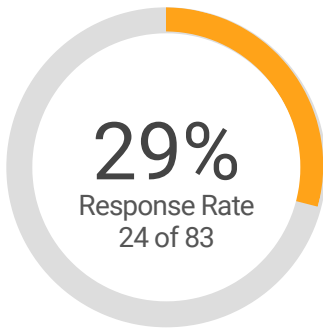


This survey completed on **Friday, May 5, 2023** at **11:59PM**.

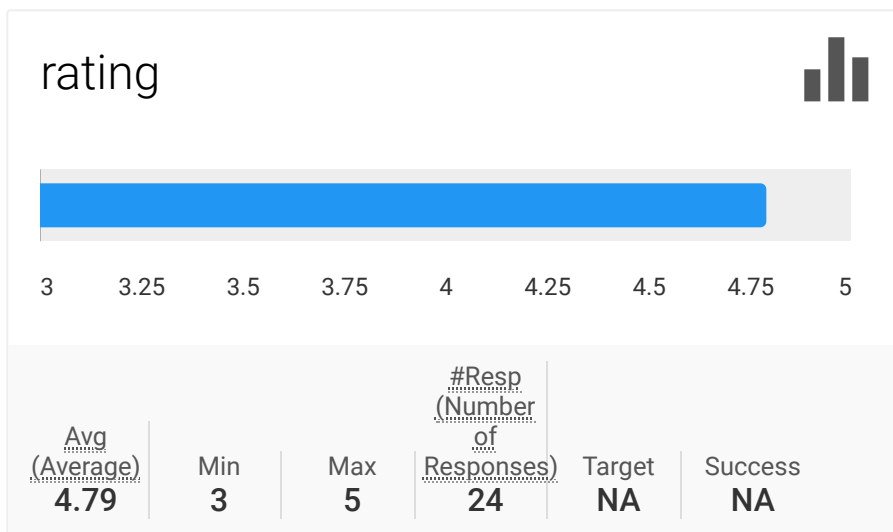
Instructor:

 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

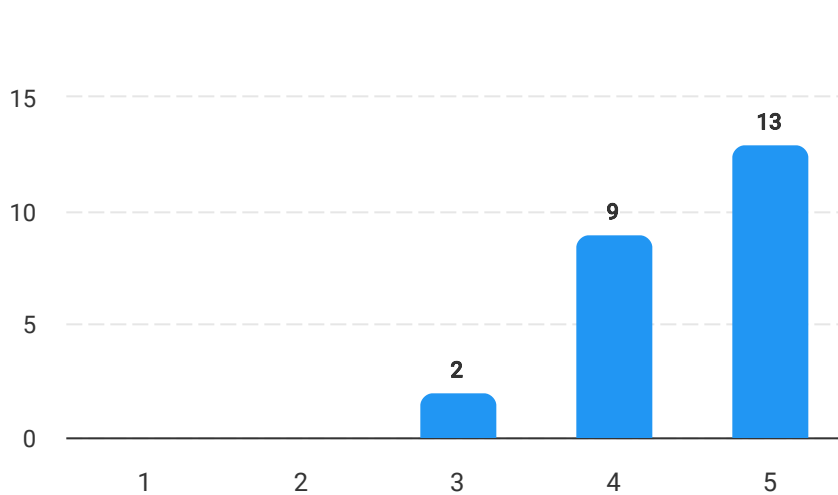
How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

| Value Option | Total |
|--------------|-------|
| 1 None | 0 |
| 2 One | 0 |
| 3 Two - Five | 2 |
| 4 Six - Ten | 9 |
| 5 11 or more | 13 |



| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average | 4.46 |
| Median | 5.00 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation) | 0.64 |
| Variance | 0.41 |

2

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

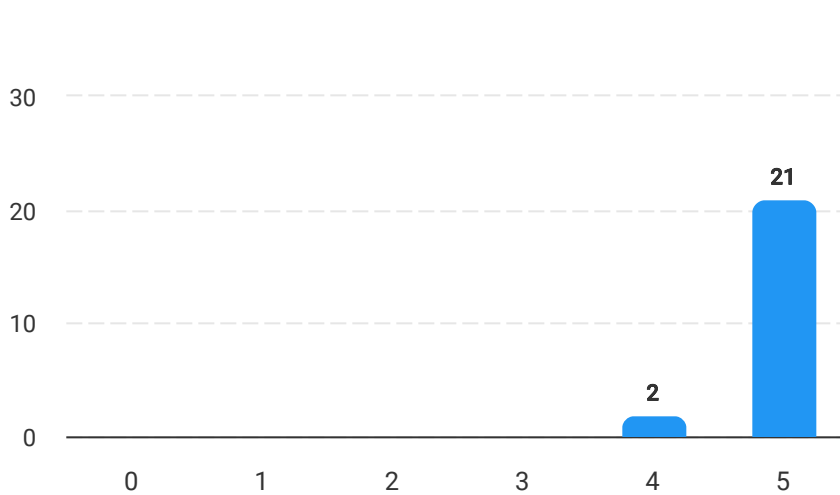
(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

| Value Option | Total |
|------------------|-------|
| - Did not attend | 0 |
| 1 Poor | 0 |

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



| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average | 4.91 |
| Median | 5.00 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation) | 0.28 |
| Variance | 0.08 |

3

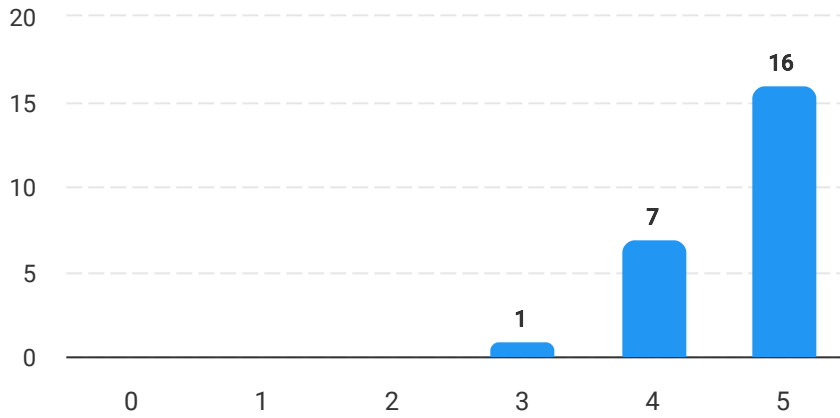
Of those sections you have attended, what proportion were interesting and/or thought-provoking?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

| Value | Option | Total |
|-------|----------------|-------|
| - | Did not attend | 0 |
| 1 | Almost none | 0 |
| 2 | Few | 0 |
| 3 | About Half | 1 |
| 4 | Most | 7 |
| 5 | Almost all | 16 |



| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average | 4.63 |
| Median | 5.00 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation) | 0.56 |
| Variance | 0.32 |

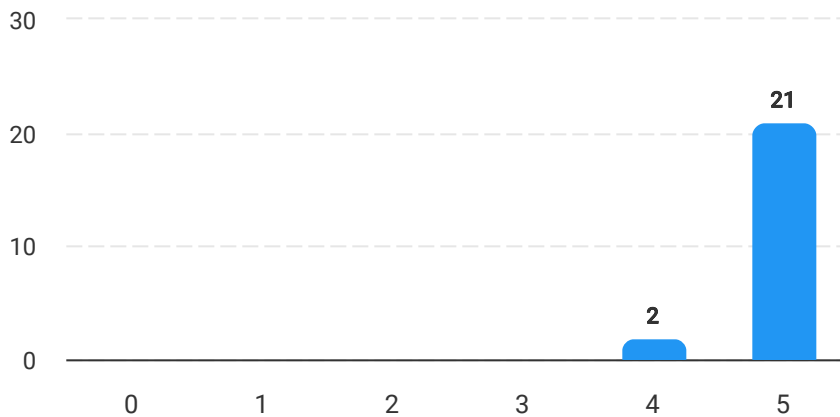
4

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 |
|------------------|-------|
| - Did not attend | 0 |
| 1 Poor | 0 |
| 2 Fair | 0 |
| 3 Average | 0 |
| 4 Good | 2 |
| 5 Excellent | 21 |



| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average | 4.91 |
| Median | 5.00 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation) | 0.28 |
| Variance | 0.08 |

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

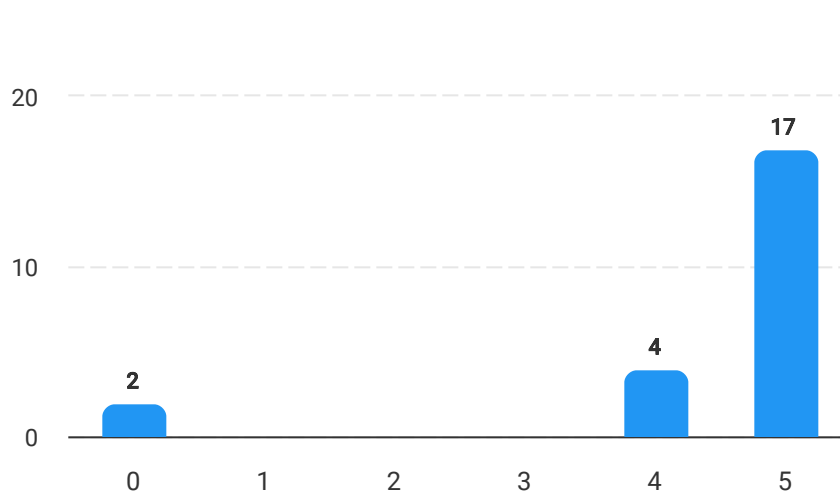
5

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

| Value | Option | Total |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| - | Did not attend | 2 |
| 1 | Not at all helpful | 0 |
| 2 | Slightly helpful | 0 |
| 3 | Of average helpfulness | 0 |
| 4 | Better than average helpfulness | 4 |
| 5 | Extremely helpful | 17 |



| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average | 4.81 |
| Median | 5.00 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation) | 0.39 |
| Variance | 0.15 |

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?

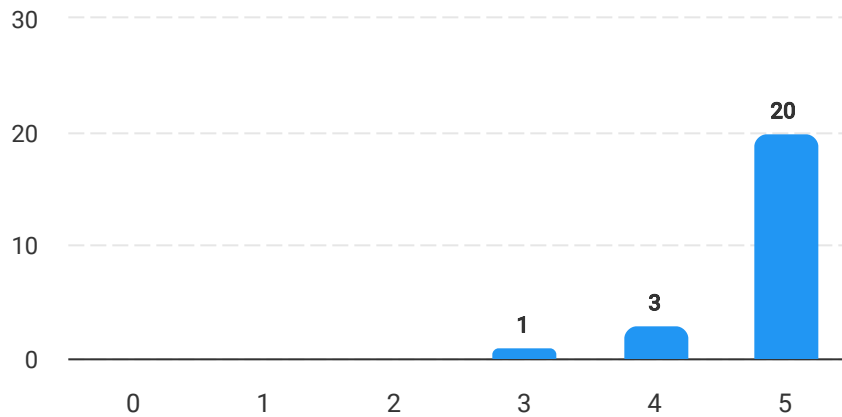
(Instructor Multi-Choice)

rating



Travis Cao Instructor

| Value | Option | Total |
|-------|-----------|-------|
| - | No Answer | 0 |
| 1 | Poor | 0 |
| 2 | Fair | 0 |
| 3 | Average | 1 |
| 4 | Good | 3 |
| 5 | Excellent | 20 |



| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average | 4.79 |
| Median | 5.00 |
| Mode | 5 |
| Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation) | 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.

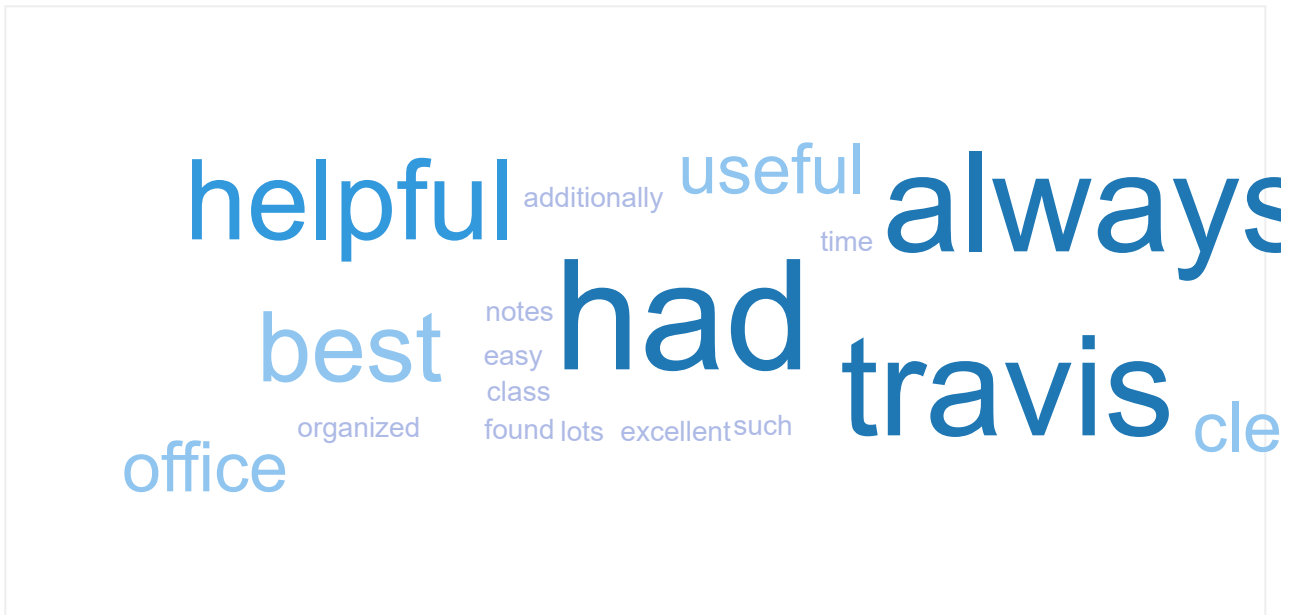
(Instructor Text/Memo)



Travis Cao Instructor

- Travis was an incredible economics TA, he is the best one I've had in my time at college and I will be graduating next year. I appreciated that he recorded all of his sections, despite understanding that all of us may have sick days but it was helpful to be able to go back and rewatch the content I was confused on, and additionally, they were extremely well organized and I found his notes to be more helpful than the lecture themselves. He is excellent at breaking complex terms into something understandable and his notes were clear and easy to follow. Additionally, he had insights for the class I found to be very valuable such as where to start studying and what kind of concepts were most important to know.
- Travis is an amazing TA! He goes above and beyond to make useful resources available to students such as creating longer discussion worksheets with extra practice problems. He is informative and clear in his teaching style and conveys complex information effectively. During his office hours and via email he is always attentive and responds quickly. I attend his office hours most weeks and he is always very helpful in explaining things I don't understand and helping me gain a better understanding of statistics. He has gone out of his way this semester to provide thorough explanations to questions I have had, even over email when I have not been available to attend office hours. Overall an outstanding TA!
- Travis is AMAZING. Best TA on campus and so organized. I am very thankful to have him as a TA as he has helped me sift through Stats material that is very heavy and makes it lighter
- Cao is excellent! His discussion session is well prepared and informative.
- Travis was very clear and went through each problem with elaboration which made it very easy to understand
- Might be helpful to do a TA review for midterms or finals since you explain things better than the professor
- He is awesome! He is always patient!
- Travis was very kind and knew what he was talking about. Always seemed to prioritize our understanding.

- Honestly Travis is the best TA I've had since getting to this university. The level of structure, and preparation he brings to discussion every week is impressive and facilitates learning unlike any TA I've ever had. Travis's handouts are incredibly detailed and useful and are a key study aid for me when preparing for exams. I truly believe that Travis should teach other TA's how to lead discussions because no TA I've ever had has done it as well as him.
- My TA was always quick to answer my emails and help me out with any questions/confusion that I had.
- Travis was a great TA who was extremely helpful and understanding. He explained concepts clearly and was very professional.
- Travis was an amazing TA. I learned so much from the discussion sections and the handouts were extremely useful. I thought the class was very difficult but the discussion sections always helped. Travis would respond to emails very quickly and always provided lots of detail for the question I was asking. He also made time to meet with me outside of his office hours when I couldn't attend. I have had lots of TAs over my past 2 years here and Travis was definitely one of the best.
- Being extremely helpful and responsive
- I thought Travis was one of the best tas I have every had. I attended most of the discussions because I felt as if I got something out of them. 10/10
- He is so good, his every handouts are some clear and useful.



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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