

Problem Set 4b

Question 1: Your goals and overall semester experience

Reflect on the kinds of personal and/or career goals that you set at the beginning of the semester. Has your overall experience this semester confirmed you in the career path that you intend to pursue?

I had several goals in mind both personally and academically like cooking, reading books, playing tennis, volunteering, learning a new language, improving my critical thinking, communication, and technical skills and knowledge. Unfortunately, all of them were probably done only till 30% due to taking too much on my plate and wanting to not compromise on any of them. As for whether it has confirmed me in the career path I intend to pursue, I really don't know. Many people say that what you learn in your university almost never finds even 20% usage in the world. So I don't really mind just going with the flow in terms of choice of degree because I'm almost certain that in 10 years I most likely will be spending 70% of my time on something that's not relevant to what I'm learning.

Were there experiences this semester that made you think about adjusting your goals?

Definitely. There were several days where I used to spend the whole day doing nothing but assignments and studying for exams. This I feel is not wise usage of my time. I remember even the first week of this semester like it was last week. Never did I think three subjects' workload would be this hectic. I definitely have more experience moving forward in planning things better and letting go of what doesn't matter.

Question 2: Your E401/M518 class takeaway

Do you feel like this course has helped you grow as an economist or data scientist?1 On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates a completely incompetent economist / data scientist and 100 indicates the perfect professional that you would like to become, how would you rate your former self from August 2022? How do you rate your current self?

I don't really think so. I feel like I'm at 30 right now in terms of competence. And I would rate my former self 20. Mostly because it's my fault and not the lectures and course. I am being completely honest about this.

In at most one paragraph describe the most important (2 or 3) insights you took away from this class. You might find it useful to write up two versions of your answer: one paragraph that you could use in a job interview, and one paragraph that you would use if a family member or non-econ friend asked you this question.

The main insight that I took away was the great detail and depth that economists go into with their analysis in a given problem statement. I never looked at it that way and it was really interesting to me.

Which specific skills do you feel you still need to improve in order to land your dream job after graduation? These could be economics skills, stats/math concepts, coding skills, or more general “soft” skills that are not taught in your academic program.

Communication, technical skills, and being able to move out of my comfort zone.

Which grade would you assign yourself for this class? Briefly (at most 2 or 3 sentences) justify your grade suggestion.

I would give myself a B mostly because I wouldn't say I have a good understanding of everything I've learned. But if given a problem, I do have enough knowledge and ability to do an insightful analysis on it.

Question 3: Challenges ahead

What do you anticipate to be the most difficult challenges for you to overcome until your graduation? Think about whether these challenges are due to factors that are within your control or due to circumstances outside of your control.

1. Being able to cook proper food
2. Finishing assignments on time
3. Making time to do other non-academic things that matter to me
4. Being able to work on some fun and cool technical projects outside of courses
5. Starting to work on what I'll want to do in the future after my graduation

I honestly think that all of these involve factors that are within my control. However, there are times when something out of nowhere pops up which is out of my control. So the ability to adapt to such situations would be key for me.

Can you think of adjustments to your approach to student life that could help you overcome these challenges? What would it take for you to implement the most important adjustment next semester?

I'd like to start with just being comfortable with doing things that make me uncomfortable. Because a lot of the time, what needs to be done is not always exciting. And also not being concerned with too much about the past, just going with the flow, and giving it my everything to whatever is within my control.

Think about which support structures (either in your personal environment, or offered through IU or other institutions) you could use to help you tackle the challenges ahead. IU has quite a few offices and programs in place to support students, and some of these may not be very actively marketed. So you might find it useful to do some proactive searching.

I think my roommates, friends, and volunteers from the non-profit organisation I work in. My daily Yoga and Meditation. Especially the latter one because that's what held me together so far. And also nature. I find myself so connected with nature and it really helps maintain balance and stability in body, mind, and energies. So definitely spending more time in nature. And finally, Sadhguru. No words to express how much better my Life has become because of him.