

Welcome to 432 Survey Results

Thomas E. Love and Students in 432

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1 Have you taken the 431 Course?

Response	Count
No, I haven't taken 431	1
Yes, I took 431 in 2022 or earlier, with Dr. Love	1
Yes, I took 431 in 2023, with Dr. Zhang	3
Yes, I took 431 in 2023, with Dr. Love	33

2 Why are you taking 432?

(Responses edited and collapsed by Dr. Love. Some people offered more than one of these responses, which I've sorted from more common to less common.)

- I got something useful out of 431 and I want more of that.
- My degree program requires me to take this course.
- I want to get better at biostatistics / statistics / data science / coding in R.
- I like Dr. Love's style of teaching.
- I want to learn more about regression models beyond linear regression / for different kinds of outcomes.
- I want to do more of my own statistical work for my projects.
- I think this course will build up my confidence.

3 How Excited Are You About Taking This Course?

- 1 = I have nightmares about this class
- 6 = I can't wait to get started

Response	1 or 2	3	4	5	6	Mean	SD
Students	3	2	13	12	8	4.5	1.2

4 What Do You Hope To Learn from 432?

(Responses edited and collapsed by Dr. Love: within these subheadings, responses are not in any particular order.)

4.1 Things We'll Definitely Discuss In Detail

- Get more comfortable with regression and other things learned in 431.
- Accurately ingesting, analyzing and interpreting data from various data sources
 - Analysis techniques for applying to real-world bio-medical data.
- Get better at R coding. / Learn how to get R to do more things.
- Quarto.
- Improve my self-confidence with regard to doing statistical work.
- Logistic Regression
- Improve my data visualization skills
- Applying more sophisticated regression approaches
 - such as regression for count outcomes, multi-categorical outcomes, time-to-event (survival) outcomes with censoring
 - variable selection ideas like ridge regression and LASSO
 - robust regression approaches
 - incorporating non-linear terms
 - tidymodels approaches to fitting more complex regression models
- How to be a more capable / independent data scientist.
- How to be a more capable / independent scientist.
- How to communicate my work more effectively.

4.2 Things We'll Discuss but Less Than The Items Above

- Working with survey weights
- Clinical Trial analyses, Power and Sample Size
- Getting through a qualifying exam or an interview with a potential employer

5 How Comfortable Are You with R?

- 1 = I'm going to need a lot of refreshing.
- 4 = I use R all the time.

Response	1	2	3	4	Mean	SD
Students	0	2	27	9	3.18	0.51

6 How comfortable are you with Quarto?

Response	Count
I don't know much about R Markdown, let alone Quarto.	0
I have used R Markdown, but never Quarto.	2
I've dabbled in Quarto, but not used it seriously.	6
I'm pretty comfortable with Quarto.	30

7 How Are You Feeling?

Dr. Love restricted this to adjectives only. Lots of people used more than one of these. About 58% of the class seems essentially positive about their current situation (although this would be a bit higher when discussing 432 in particular) and perhaps another 32% are in the middle, or at least highlighted both worries and delights.

Some words used to describe **more negative** feelings:

- Worried, Overextended, Tired, Nervous, Stressed, Scared, Hesitant, Concerned, Uneasy, "None"

Some words used to describe **more neutral** feelings:

- Cold, Yikes!

Some words/phrases used to describe **more positive** feelings:

- Great, Good, Excited, Well, Happy, Comfortable, Looking Forward, Positive, Confident, Hopeful, Glad, Fine

8 Tell us something interesting or fun (or both) about you.

(Grouped by Dr. Love, and edited a little in some cases.)

8.1 Place of Origin

- I am originally from a small island country, Mauritius and I am also fluent in three languages.
- I come from a sunny country, however I am allergic to sunlight!
- I was born in America but because my family only spoke Russian, I didn't know any english until I started school at age 5.
 - *Dr. Love was born on Long Island, and has been in Northeast Ohio since 1994 (more than half his life), but still thinks of himself as a New Yorker.*

8.2 Hobbies

- I am really into plant-based cooking.
- I like Hearthstone but my account has gone now.
- My family makes maple syrup here outside of Cleveland
 - *Dr. Love does the NY Times puzzles, especially the crossword (the family and I are over 800 in a row now), Connections, and Wordle. He has a current streak of 163 Wordles in a row solved within 6 guesses. Neither of these is his proudest achievement.*

8.3 Pets and Animals

- I foster rescue cats.
- I have a blind, elderly cat whom I love dearly!
- I have two cats, Portland and Vancouver, who are demanding but I love them just the same. Their names also reflect my desire to live in the Pacific Northwest.
- I have a cat. His name is Cauliflower, and he is 11 years old now.
 - *Dr. Love's family cat is named Fuzzington. He's a delightful lump of fur.*
- I have a pet dog named Stella and pet sourdough starter named Diane.
- I have two kids, a dog, a cat, and a horse. All the animals were not my idea...

8.4 Trips

- I have been to Australia to snorkel the great barrier reef!
- I went on a month long trip to Japan and Korea over this winter break!
- Recently I went Scuba diving in Mexico at night and saw a Greater Hammerhead shark (10 feet long) about 6 feet away from me in the water.
 - *Dr. Love will be back in New York for a few days when his son graduates from college. That's the only planned trip on the schedule right now.*

8.5 Sports

- I like horse riding.
- I'm training for my first triathlon this year.
- My first time skiing took place last December. I ended up wiping out but I had a ball overall.
 - *Dr. Love needs to get back to playing golf, at least. His favorite local courses include Sleepy Hollow and Fowler's Mill (although the latter was in better shape years ago.) He is a crazy baseball fan (especially the Mets) but also enjoys watching several weird sports.*

8.6 Music / The Arts

- I love to sing and I am on CWRU's a cappella team, 'Dhamakapella'.
- I can play guzheng. (It's a [musical instrument](#), [a form of plucked zither](#).)
- I currently dance at a studio for adults and will hopefully be dancing in a show for them this semester.
- I play drums in a local band.
- I presently own and play 13 unique instruments (electronic drum kit, cajon, aslatua, claves, stumpf fiddle, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, violin, ocarina, kalimba, steel tongue drum, melodica)
- I like to paint, take pictures and go on hikes. Nature amazes me, my hobbies are always centered around the beauty of the nature.

8.7 Other Interesting Things

- I love to learn.
- I love trying new things and having new experiences.
- I do infectious disease research.
- I am interested in antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.
- I love to do research on new things on AI and medicine.
- I am particularly interested in improving neonatal health outcomes.
- I am a dentist that has dental anxiety.
- I am a surgeon.
- I have an interest in research on how to improve quality of life among children with cancer during and after active treatment.
- I'm an aspiring OB/GYN who hopes to pursue a career in academic medicine.
- I don't like tea. Hot or iced.
- I am a professional meme maker.
- I am left-handed, like both of my parents.
- I have a tattoo that lights up in UV.

- *Dr. Love’s birthday is Valentine’s Day, which (given his last name) is more fun as an adult.*

9 Your Questions and Comments: My Answers

1. Can I make an appointment to discuss something with you?
 - Yes, just email me at Thomas dot Love at case dot edu, and we’ll set something up. It helps if you let me know what you want to discuss.
2. I want to work on interesting health services research projects. Does Dr. Love have any openings at the moment to work with him?
 - Not this semester, no. I’m mostly working on other peoples’ grants at the moment. I may have some opportunities worth discussing starting in April, however. Not clear yet. Ask me in March.
3. According to prior students, is the workload for 432 the same as 431?
 - Essentially yes, but the course changes enough year-to-year that I don’t know how reliable that would be. Also, people who don’t like 431 very much often elect not to take 432.
4. What should we expect from labs and projects that are different when compared to 431?
 - That most people will need less help from me on the small stuff, I believe, and that we’ll see a much wider range of projects (especially in Project B) across the class.
5. Did you have a good holiday break?
 - I saw a good deal of my sons, which was great, since they’re off living their lives most of the time. I also spent a lot of time working on and rehearsing “Curtains” so that was both exciting and exhausting. I hope you had a great holiday, too!
6. Are you sleeping better?
 - Since I got the CPAP, yes. Not in every way, but it’s definitely a real improvement.
7. I have not read the syllabus yet so I’m worried I will ask about something that is already in there.
 - Ask anyway, please.