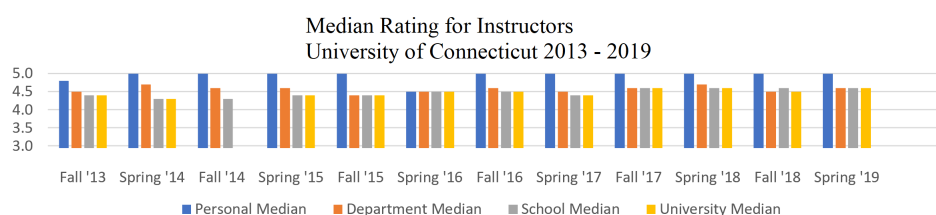


Robert JS McDonald | Teaching Recognition

Yale University

For a full set of course evaluations from the most recent semester in which I was teaching, please visit my website at <https://mathrjism.com/teachingportfolio/f2020evals.pdf>.

At UConn, in Spring 2019 I was awarded the DeLuca Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. I was also nominated by my department for the 2017 University Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. For six semesters, I was one of a few math graduate students allowed to be the instructor of record for their own courses. Each semester, students rated their experience out of 5 in thirteen categories about my teaching, and provide comments. Categories included stimulation of interest, investment in student learning, accessibility, feedback, treating students with respect, and promotion of learning. Students are encouraged to provide written comments. My median scores across all categories for each semester are below along with department, school, and university medians.



As a reflective practitioner, I was concerned when Yale decided not to have students evaluate their instructors during the recent move to remote teaching. Seeking my own feedback, throughout the spring and fall semesters of 2020, I created several Qualtrics surveys asking students to comment and rate their experience out of 5 in the same thirteen categories above. I received a median scores of 4 and 5 across all categories on each survey. Of particular note, the most recent survey indicated a total of 71% of students strongly agreed that I show genuine interest in helping students learn, 67% strongly agreed I am accessible, and 83% strongly agreed that I treat students with respect.

Comments from Student Surveys.

- “You put so much effort into the class and the instruction, from the modules to the office hours in grading that you made the class as easy as it possibly could. I really appreciate how kind and hard-working you are, and I’ll really miss you next semester!” (Yale, F20)
- “I also love how encouraging you are for people to speak out and participate in class, and how kind you are even if they get the wrong answer.” (Yale, F20)
- “I really appreciated that you were understanding of the struggles of transitioning from in-person to online classes and made that shift a lot less stressful than it could have been.” (Yale, S20)
- “He was a phenomenal instructor one-on-one in office hours and really cared about his students, taking the time to get to know us and checking in on us when we seemed to be going through a rough time and I really appreciated that about Bobby.” (Yale, F19)
- “Bobby is very enthusiastic. He seems to love math, and I appreciate that. He tried to give us an intuition and understanding of what the numbers are doing, often through GeoGebra.” (UConn, S19)
- “By just being the absolutely delightful person that you are, the students feel comfortable enough to approach you and to want to learn more about the subject material. You keep the class fun, exciting, and engaging with your wit, humor, and personability. You’re so passionate about this subject.” (UConn, F18)
- “Some people have an innate knack for teaching, and Bobby has this gift. His lectures are always easy to follow, things built from step to the next logical step, and his method of using a Surface tablet and real handwriting made the information easy to keep organized in my notes. Fantastic instructor.” (UConn, S16)