



January 7, 2022

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 Fall 2021 semester. Your average score on the "rate performance" question (#6) was **4.72**. 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 fall 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 2021 Question (#6) Frequency Distribution of Average Scores on "Rate Performance"	
Range	Number of TA's Receiving this Average Score
4.69 – 5.00 (Distinguished)	17
4.3 – 4.68 (Excellent)	26
3.5 – 4.29 (Good)	23
3.0 – 3.49 (Satisfactory)	2
Below 3.0	0

Average TA rating on this question was 4.30

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

Fall 2021 TA Survey Pending Results

📅 2021 Fall / Student Course Evaluation (End of Term) / Anonymous Survey
 Course Assignments: **208** / Survey Participants: **4462**

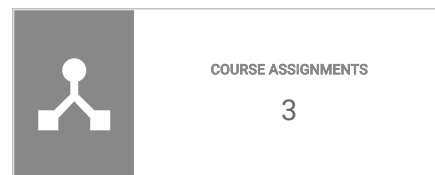
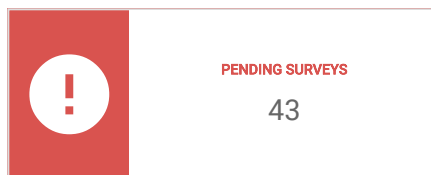
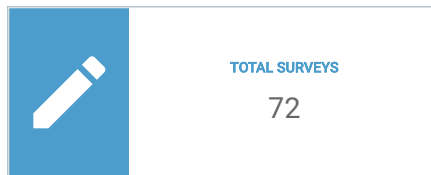
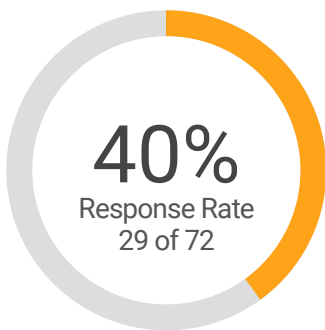
Schedule: 11/29/2021 to 12/13/2021
 Results Available: 12/27/2021



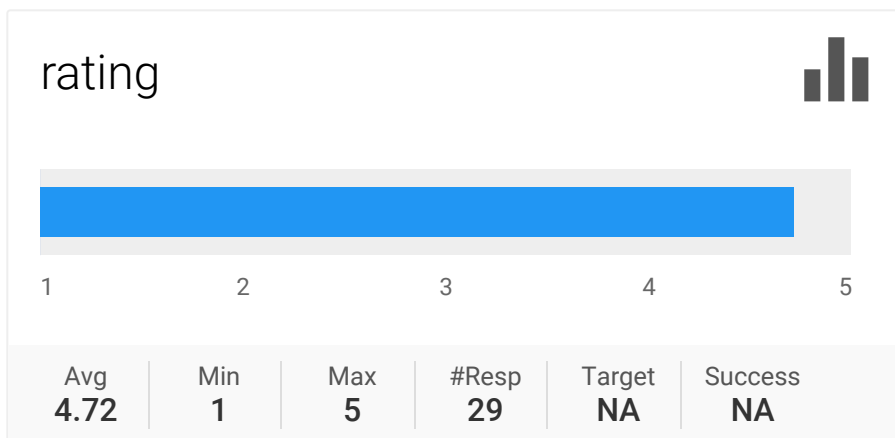
This survey has completed. However, results are not available for faculty to review until **Monday, December 27, 2021**.

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

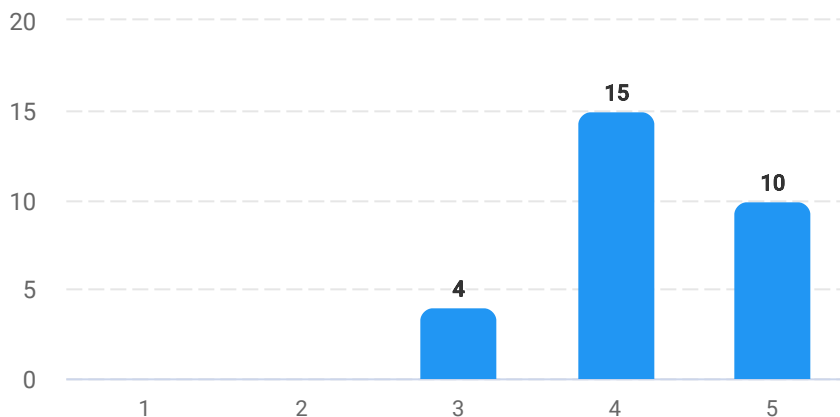
How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
1	None	0
2	One	0
3	Two - Five	4
4	Six - Ten	15
5	11 or more	10



Average

4.21

Median

4.00

Mode

4

Std. Dev.

0.66

Variance

0.44

2

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

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

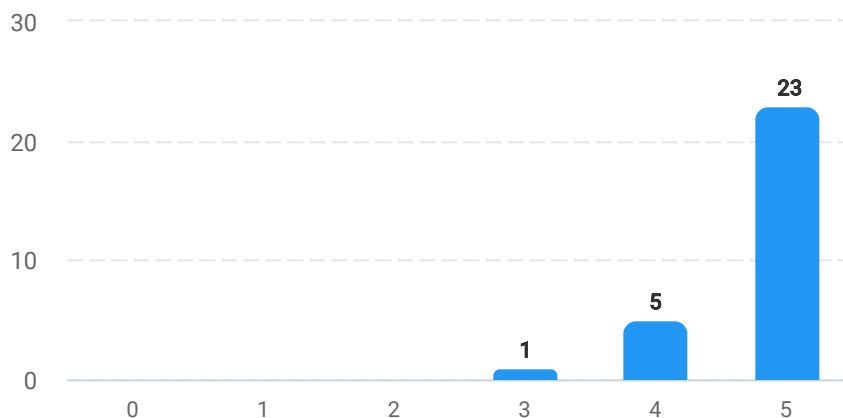


Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	1



Value	Option	Total
4	Good	5
5	Excellent	23



Average
4.76
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.50
Variance
0.25

3

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

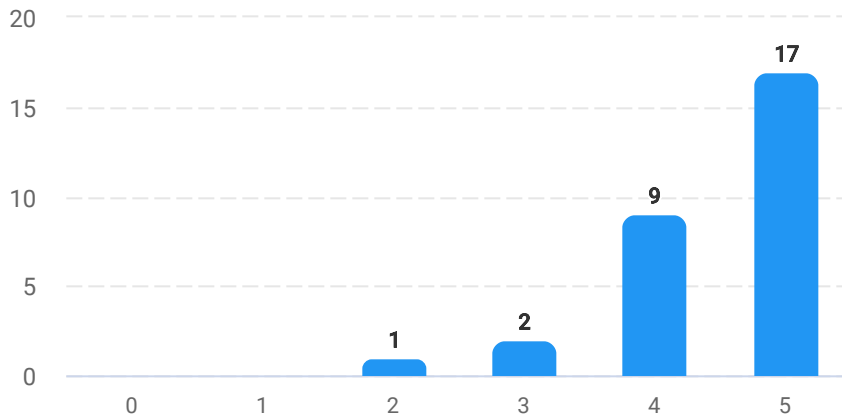
(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Travis Cao Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	0
1	Almost none	0
2	Few	1
3	About Half	2
4	Most	9
5	Almost all	17





Average
4.45
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.77
Variance
0.59

4

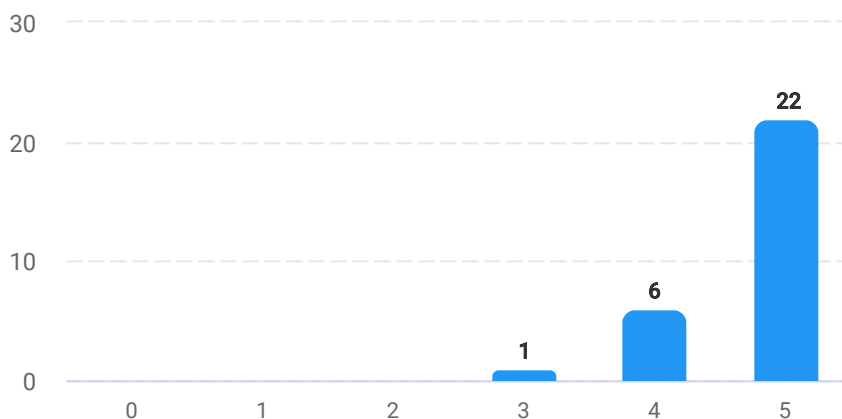
Overall, what is your assessment of the TA's knowledge of the material related to this course?

(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	6
5	Excellent	22



Average
4.72
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.52
Variance
0.27

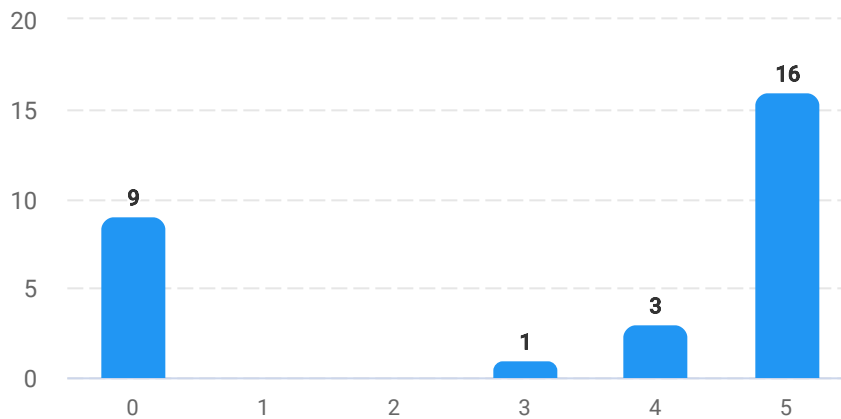
5

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	1
4	Better than average helpfulness	3
5	Extremely helpful	16




Average
4.75
Median
5.00
Mode
5
Std. Dev.
0.54
Variance
0.29

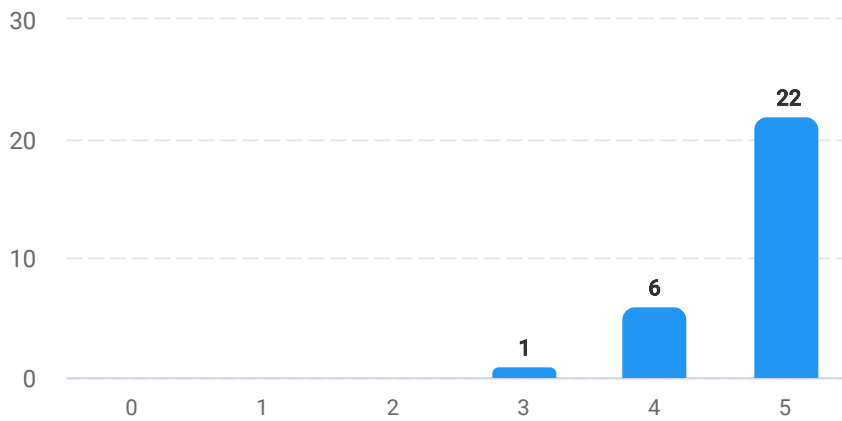
6

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	6
5	Excellent	22



Average

4.72

Median

5.00

Mode

5

Std. Dev.

0.52

Variance

0.27

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)





- N/A
- I appreciated how he offered his own explanation/notes on concepts that went into greater detail than the notes provided by the professor. He was very clear and easy to understand in discussion sections, the main reason I understood most everything in the course
- Extremely knowledgeable and presents information in a way that is easy to understand.
- The man rocks. He breaks down the topics so well. I seriously rely on section for learning how to do the computations and practicing them. The packets provide all the essential information from the chapter of the week, in a way that synthesizes the information. He is also extremely reachable outside of class and records his sections, showing that he's flexible and wants us to succeed. Best TA I've had in the Econ department.
- All pretty good with one minor complaint: in the future you should leave more room for work on the discussion worksheets
- Problem sets
- You could tell that Travis cared about the success of the students in his sections. Despite low attendance levels, it did not impact his ability to teach the section or present material. Travis went out of his way to provide a even more descriptive handout that would facilitate student learning and emphasize the material discussed in lecture and in the textbook.
- Travis was very well-spoken in section and was very good at/prepared for explaining each week's topics.
- Travis is always prepared for the discussion. He is familiar with the material and is able to explain it well to the students. I had many questions during lecture and they are always answered during the discussion.
- Travis is a wonderful TA, he explained every definitions very well and he help us to better comprehend the chapter well.
- Travis was one of the better TA's I have had at UW-Madison. His organization skills are what stands out most to me. He always informed us on approaching deadlines and his periodic emails were extremely helpful. Not only that, but the discussion sections were fantastic. Travis goes above and beyond by providing his own material to students which helped me learn so much more. I am very glad Travis was my TA. It was clear he cared about the course as well as our learning.

more provide good topics easy clear had learning
students travis went own information
material always chapter extremely cared sections

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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No text to process or the text does not contain words occurring at least 2 times.



Good afternoon Kim,

I just wanted to provide some feedback regarding my TAs:

Econ 310:

Travis Cao - one of the best TAs I had. He really cares about the students, goes above and beyond what is expected. Communicates very well with the students, other TA, and me.