



January 30, 2023

J. Andrew Smith
jasmith52@wisc.edu

Dear J. Andrew:

The Department of Economics Teaching Assistant Review Committee has examined student and faculty evaluations of your teaching performance during the Spring 2022 semester. Your average score on the "rate performance" question (#6) was **4.88**. 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 Average Score
4.73 - 5.00 (Distinguished)	16
4.43 - 4.72 (Excellent)	20
3.50 - 4.42 (Good)	26
3.00 - 3.49 (Satisfactory)	4
Below 3.0	1

Average TA rating on this question was 4.34

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

Fall 2022 End of Semester TA Survey Completed

2022 Fall / Student Course Evaluation (End of Term) / Anonymous Survey

Course Assignments: **214** / Survey Participants: **4771**

Schedule: 11/30/2022 to 12/14/2022

Results Available: 12/28/2022

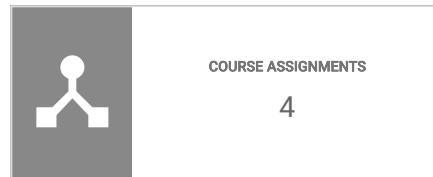
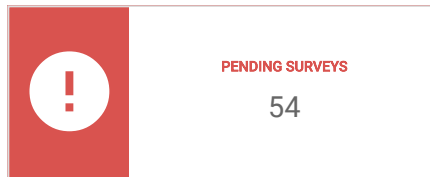
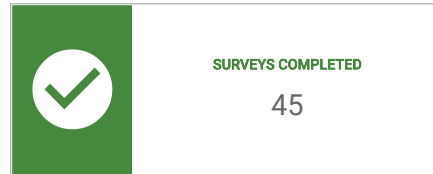
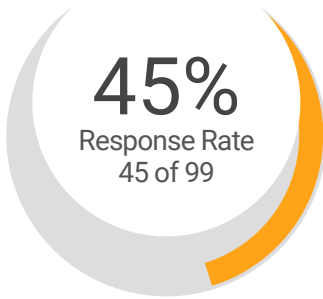


This survey completed on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 11:59PM.**

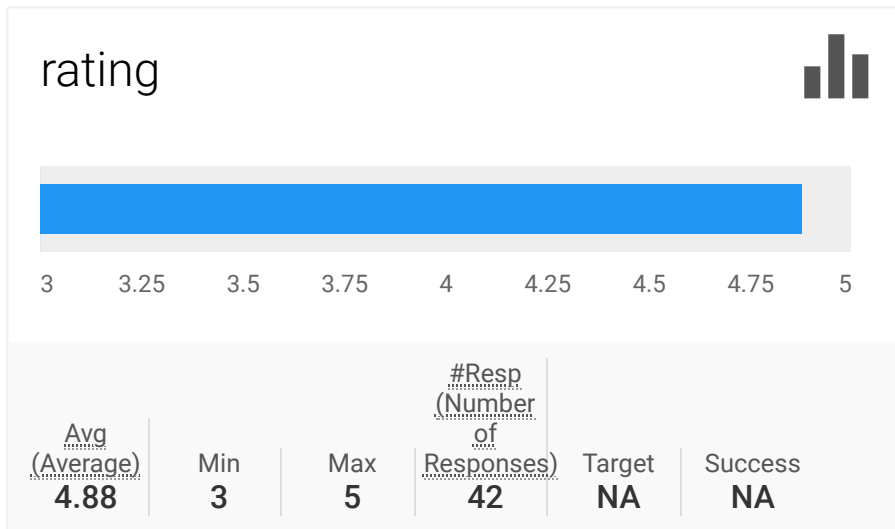
Instructor:

 Andrew Smith

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

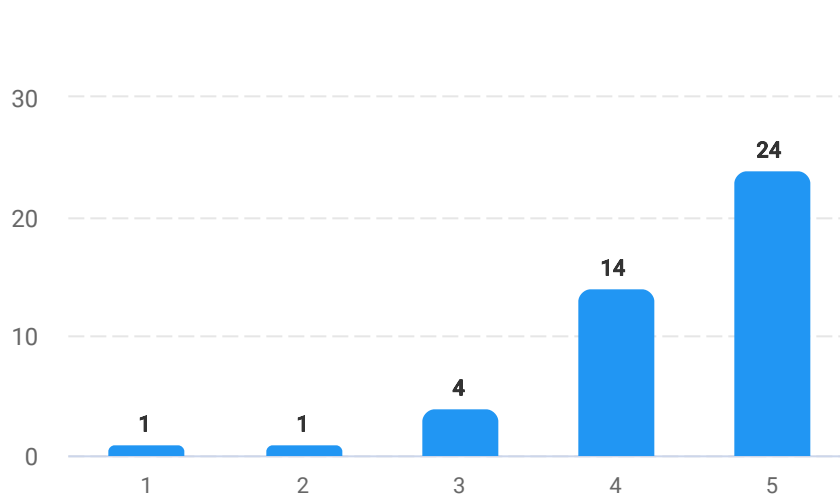
How many of the discussion or lab sections led by the TA have you attended so far?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Andrew Smith Instructor

Value	Option	Total
1	None	1
2	One	1
3	Two - Five	4
4	Six - Ten	14
5	11 or more	24



Average	4.34
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.90
Variance	0.82

2

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

(Instructor Multi-Choice)

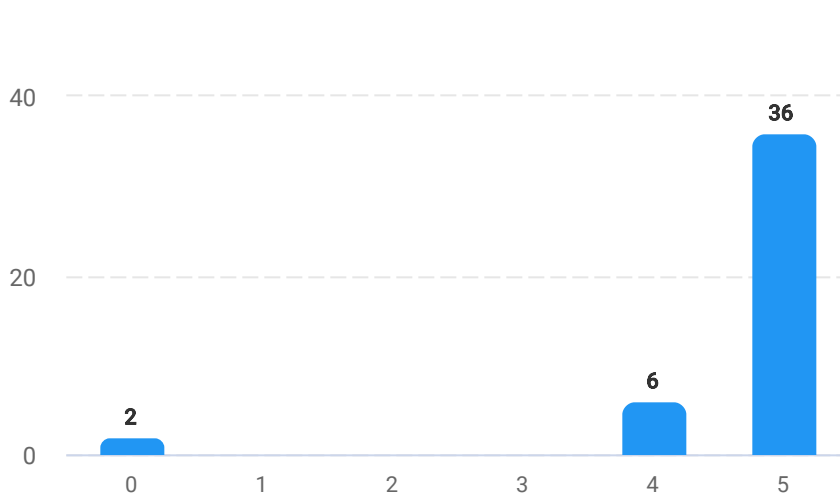


Andrew Smith Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	2
1	Poor	0



Value	Option	Total
2	Fair	0
3	Average	0
4	Good	6
5	Excellent	36



Average	4.86
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.35
Variance	0.12

3

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

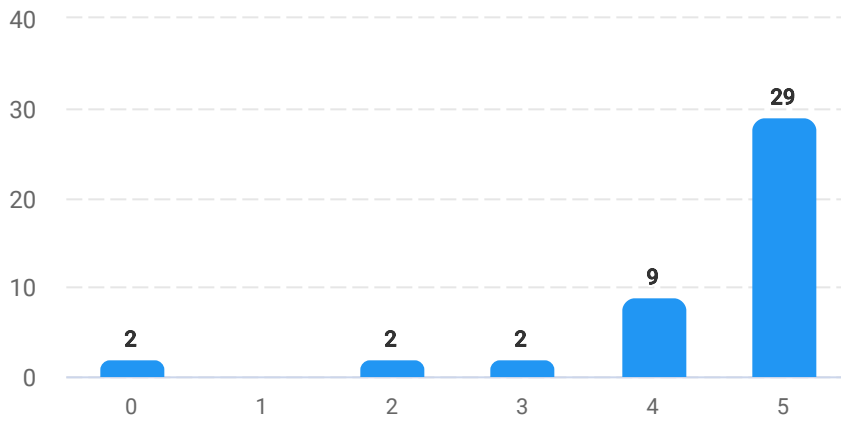
(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Andrew Smith Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	2
1	Almost none	0
2	Few	2
3	About Half	2
4	Most	9
5	Almost all	29





Average	4.55
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.79
Variance	0.63

4

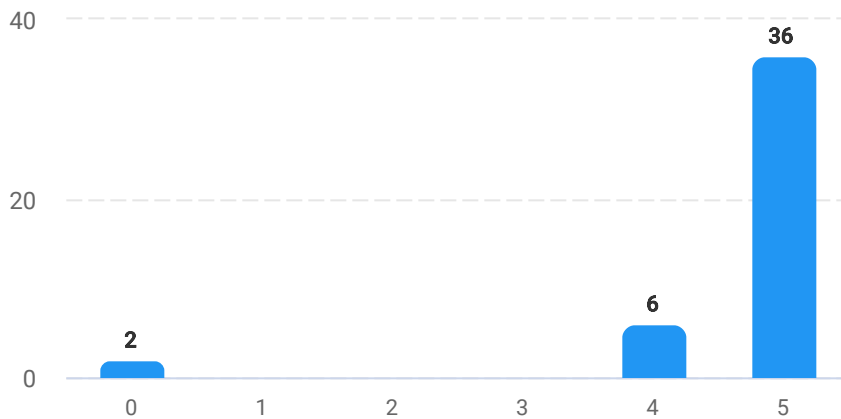
Overall, what is your assessment of the TA's knowledge of the material related to this course?

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Andrew Smith Instructor

Value Option	Total
0 Did not attend	2
1 Poor	0
2 Fair	0
3 Average	0
4 Good	6
5 Excellent	36



Average	4.86
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.35
Variance	0.12

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



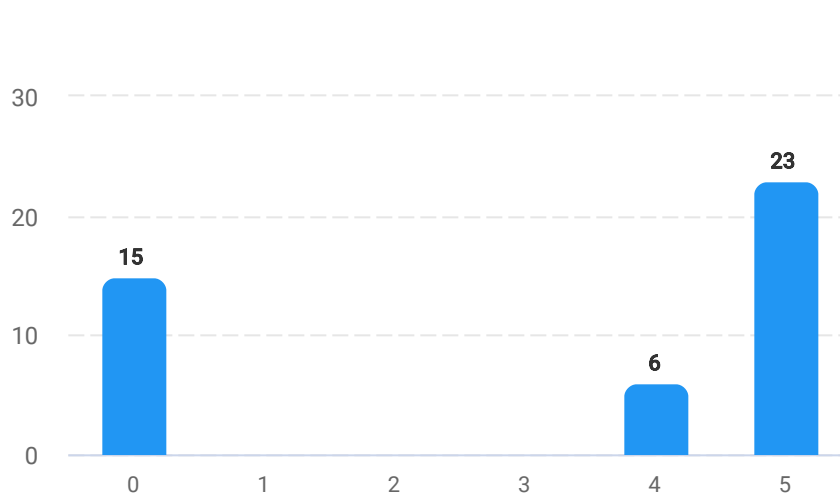
5

(Instructor Multi-Choice)



Andrew Smith Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	Did not attend	15
1	Not at all helpful	0
2	Slightly helpful	0
3	Of average helpfulness	0
4	Better than average helpfulness	6
5	Extremely helpful	23



Average	4.79
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.41
Variance	0.16

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)

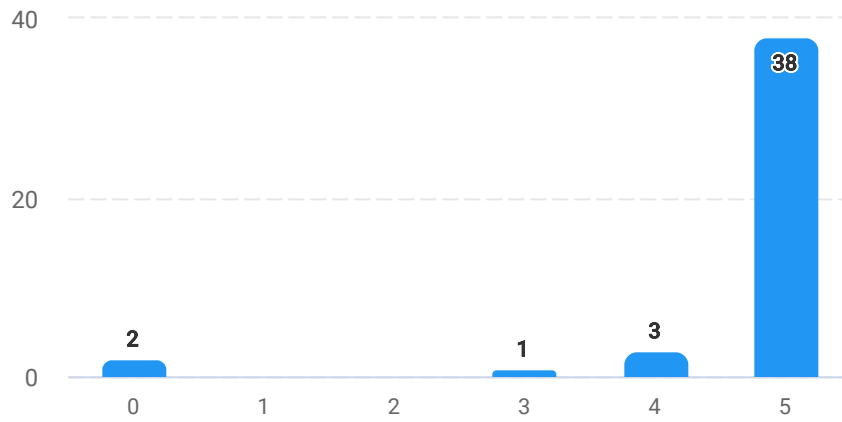
rating



Andrew Smith Instructor

Value	Option	Total
0	No Answer	2
1	Poor	0
2	Fair	0
3	Average	1
4	Good	3
5	Excellent	38





Average	4.88
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Std. Dev. (Standard Deviation)	0.39
Variance	0.15

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)



- Andrew knows exactly what he's talking about for Econ 301. He takes Mareks broad lectures and narrows them down to relevant material for exams and homework. He would answer multiple questions in discussion and always gave helpful responses.
- He explained things very clear, and was easy to understand.
- Andrew Smith was the GOAT TA. Seriously, the best TA I've had at UW yet. Answers students questions effectively, encourages discussion, easy to understand. Professor Weretka is great, but I seriously think if everyone had 200 minutes with Smith instead each week, every student would have an A.
- I thought Andrew did a wonderful job presenting and explaining the material during discussion and office hours. There were a few times however when it seemed that there was a lack of communication between the professor and the TA's in general, which may fully not be their fault at all, about the course content and what would be tested on exams.
- Andrew did an excellent work on helping students to review the course contents and explain the confusions of students. He has a great style of teaching and with clear explanation to the content.
- The TA was excellent in terms of pace, attitude, and presenting the material in an understandable manner. He is very approachable, and I don't really have any complaints.
- I liked how he would work through problems step by step and that he always answered questions to the best of his ability. I also thought it was really good how he would go over the main concepts from class in the beginning of discussions.
- The discussion sections and sheets were very helpful in walking through the kinds of questions we might see on the exam. They were also very helpful in referencing for when I was doing the problem sets the following week.
- I really enjoyed your teaching style and how you were able to synthesize the information into a way we could easily understand. I also appreciated your advice on future econ research.
- I think discussion sections were really engaging and went over lecture material really well. I was often confused after lectures and the discussion was able to clear up a lot of that. He also advocated for his students to the professor and was helpful in answering questions
- Very good at explaining things in an interesting and easy to understand way, answers questions well, completely knows the material
- Without a doubt Andrew was the best TA I have ever had. I typically don't go to discussions because I find them not very useful, but after attending the first one and realizing how helpful it was I have attended every one. He is very intellectual on the topics we were discussing and were able to present them in a clear and understanding manner. Overall an 11/10 ta I would take any class he would offer.
- I liked that Andrew treated us like we were friends almost. It made class a very comfortable environment where I didn't feel afraid to answer or ask questions. Andrew is an amazing TA and the department is lucky to have him.
- He presented content in an easy-to-understand manner. If I had a question about something from lecture it was usually answered in discussion without even having to ask it. He did an exemplary job of covering material and even sometimes going beyond what was covered in lecture to further our comprehension.
- really engaging with the class, made it easy to understand material, very understanding and helpful
- Amazing TA
- Easily the best TA I have ever had in any course at UW-Madison. I hope that he intends to become a professor or teacher of some sort because I was thoroughly impressed to the amount of time and effort he took to assist us in our understanding of the course material and to make the course as enjoyable as possible for us. I think this is also the first time in the three years that I have been attending this university that I have seen the majority of my discussion section show up every week. Normally people get though a few weeks, realize the TA isn't helpful and then stop showing up. With Andrew everybody almost always showed up. I can't express



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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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