

Teaching Effectiveness

While at the University of Michigan, I served as the graduate student instructor for “Quantitative Methods of Program Evaluation: Focus on Education,” a course for graduate students in the Ford School of Public Policy. In this role, I taught for 1.5 hours a week, held office hours, and wrote and graded assignments, quizzes, and exams. Each semester, the University of Michigan solicits feedback from students on a variety of topics related to their course. Each student ranks their opinion between 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree). The table below demonstrates my median score on a sample of these topics as well as the University median and 75th percentile.

The full report of my evaluations is available on my website: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~fstreich/teaching/>.

Table 1. Teaching Evaluations at the University of Michigan

	<u>My Median</u> <u>Score</u>	<u>University</u> <u>Median</u>	<u>University</u> <u>75%</u>
The instructor explained the material clearly and understandably.	4.75	4.50	4.78
The instructor made good use of examples and illustrations.	4.78	4.38	4.72
The instructor appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject.	4.78	4.80	4.92
The instructor acknowledged all questions insofar as possible.	4.75	4.58	4.80
The instructor treated students with respect.	4.81	4.79	4.90
The instructor seemed well prepared for each class.	4.87	4.67	4.86

Students are also encouraged to provide feedback. Select student comments include:

- “Francie is the most amazing GSI I have worked with. She explained things in a clear and concise manner, returned work in a timely manner, and was a general pleasure to be around.”
- “Francie was an extremely effective GSI. Our graded material always contained thorough, substantive feedback and was returned in a timely manner. This was quite a feat given the volume that she had to grade. Sections dovetailed nicely with class and reinforced the important points. I have no doubts that Francie will be an excellent professor, should she choose to pursue an academic position.”
- “Francie was a great GSI. Program Eval was a very demanding course... and I don't think just anyone could have done that job well. Francie did! She clearly put a TON of work into the class and developed really helpful teaching tools and took care to figure out what we as a class needed the most help on. In something quantitative like Program Eval the students can't necessarily identify those things themselves - like "what about this really complicated thing don't you get?" can be hard to figure out and I thought Francie succeeded. Also, she is one of the few GSI's I've had who was really able to TEACH.”
- “Francie is one of the best GSI's I have had for any subject. I wanted to go to section because I knew Francie would be prepared and give a useful lecture. Francie explained things clearly and used examples to illustrate complicated topics. Francie was fair in administering quizzes and was responsive in answering questions through email and in office hours.”
- “Among the very best GSIs at the Ford School. Always willing to help, even outside office hours, and excellent not only at explaining the concepts but in leading students to explain the concepts to and among themselves.”