

TAs in Core Courses

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Washington, Seattle WA

Categories

- Undergraduate and MS

- Selected by faculty or have references
- Are generally interested in a TA position

- PhD

- Aren't able to secure research funding

Comparing categories

Undergraduate and MS	PhD
Limited research activity	Involved in several research related activities (conferences, travel, publications, exams)
Generally relate well with students	Relatability varies
Personal experience working with UG/MS TAs has been fantastic	Has sometimes been 🤔
When they are in majority, they have a positive impact on the entire team	When they are in majority, they have a negative impact on the entire team

Example: EE 215 evaluations

● Autumn 2022

Overall Summative Rating represents the combined responses of students to the four global summative items and is presented to provide an overall index of the class's quality:

Combined Median	Adjusted Combined Median
3.6	4.3
(0=lowest; 5=highest)	

Challenge and Engagement Index (CEI) combines student responses to several *IASystem* items relating to how academically challenging students found the course to be and how engaged they were:

CEI: 5.5
(1=lowest; 7=highest)

SUMMATIVE ITEMS

	N	Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Very Poor (0)	Median	Adjusted Median
The course as a whole was:	81	12%	25%	32%	17%	10%	4%	3.1	3.9
The course content was:	81	22%	25%	33%	15%	4%	1%	3.4	4.1
The instructor's contribution to the course was:	81	42%	26%	17%	10%	4%	1%	4.2	4.8
The instructor's effectiveness in teaching the subject matter was:	81	28%	26%	22%	12%	9%	2%	3.7	4.4

● Autumn 2023

Overall Summative Rating represents the combined responses of students to the four global summative items and is presented to provide an overall index of the class's quality:

Combined Median	Adjusted Combined Median
4.6	4.9
(0=lowest; 5=highest)	

Challenge and Engagement Index (CEI) combines student responses to several *IASystem* items relating to how academically challenging students found the course to be and how engaged they were:

CEI: 5.6
(1=lowest; 7=highest)

SUMMATIVE ITEMS

	N	Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Very Poor (0)	Median	Adjusted Median
The course as a whole was:	39	36%	36%	26%	3%			4.1	4.5
The course content was:	39	49%	23%	26%	3%			4.4	4.8
The instructor's contribution to the course was:	39	72%	15%	10%	3%			4.8	5.1
The instructor's effectiveness in teaching the subject matter was:	39	59%	23%	13%	5%			4.7	5.0

Discussion

- Solutions?
 - Better communication of TA duties
 - Share course material start of term
 - Contact lead TA
- Approach moving forward?