

# Nicholas J. Seewald

## Student Feedback Summary

Full teaching evaluation reports are available on request.

## University of Michigan

Below are average scores on relevant questions asked in student course reviews for lab sections in which I was the instructor. Scores are on a five-point Likert scale with 5 = Strongly Agree, 1 = Strongly Disagree. (NJS) refers to Nicholas J. Seewald.

Question	NJS Mean (SD) <sup>a</sup>	University Mean <sup>b</sup>
Overall, (NJS) was an excellent teacher.	4.9 (0.4)	4.7
(NJS) seemed well prepared for class meetings.	4.9 (0.3)	4.8
(NJS) explained material clearly.	4.9 (0.3)	4.7
(NJS) treated students with respect.	5.0 (0.2)	4.9
(NJS) motivated me to do my best work.	4.7 (0.6)	4.7
(NJS) handled questions well.	4.8 (0.6)	4.7
(NJS) appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject.	4.9 (0.3)	4.9
(NJS) gave clear and understandable explanations.	4.8 (0.4)	4.6
(NJS) graded papers (exams, homework) fairly.	4.7 (0.7)	4.7
Students felt comfortable asking questions.	4.8 (0.7)	4.7
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.	4.6 (0.6)	4.6

<sup>a</sup> Averaged across all lab instructor appointments (Winter 2018 - Fall 2020)

<sup>b</sup> Based on Fall 2020 responses from all courses administering the question

## Selected Qualitative Responses

Below are a subset of student comments demonstrating teaching excellence in undergraduate-level classrooms. Student responses may use the initialism “GSI” for Graduate Student Instructor; the reader may substitute this with “lab instructor”.

- “Nick was the best GSI I’ve ever had! I struggled a lot with the material and he explained it well 100% of the time. The only time of the week I felt like I knew what was happening with the course material was in Nick’s section.”

- “Nick Seewald is quite honestly the best GSI I have ever had. He genuinely cares for his students and shows it during every lab session. [...] He consistently encourages his students to try their best and never makes them feel inferior for not understanding a topic. He is also always patient with students and is willing to explain the same topic in multiple ways so that they can understand. Lastly, when a student is in a class that has hundreds of students, sometimes it can be really overwhelming. However, Nick Seewald makes students feel like they have someone to turn to if they have questions or are having a hard time in the class.”
- “Nick was an excellent GSI and always answered questions with enthusiasm which made him very approachable. I think he was an excellent resource for me during Stats 250 because he explained complicated concepts with ease and so effectively – I think he often did a better job than my lecturer.”
- “Tough class to wake up for, but was very helpful in clearing up a lot of the misunderstandings I was having from the lecture.”
- “His style of teaching is encouraging, non-condescending, and engaging. He strongly encouraged collaboration and went above and beyond what is required of GSI’s. [...] [H]e managed to make stats understandable in just 1.5 hours a week.”
- “Nick was 100% the best GSI that I’ve had. He was very clear in his explanations and created a fun environment which encouraged asking questions and a deeper learning of statistics. He not only wanted you to ask questions but would approach every student to ask them personally if they had any confusions which let even the most introverted students to ask questions frequently. His explanations although beyond thorough were still very digestible and his excitement for statistics as a whole began to rub off on me toward the end of the course. I honestly have no complaints, thank you Nick!”
- “Nick’s enthusiasm and eagerness to teach made the class far more interesting and resulted in me engaging with the course content at a deeper level because I was I unafraid to speak up.”
- “Nick was the best GSI I have had at this university. He had very clear explanations and was always able to provide an effective answer to all questions asked of him. He was very effective in his teaching.”
- “Nick is one of the best GSI’s i have ever had, he is so nice and truly cares about his students and wants them to do well. [...] If it was not for him i do not know how i would have done in the class”
- “Nick Seewald was a great GSI! His passion for statistics was contagious. He always motivated students to do their best and was available for extra support and guidance. His labs were always a great compliment to topics covered in lecture, which allowed students to solidify concepts and ask questions about the material. Overall, Nick did an amazing job and I am truly thankful for his support!”

- “Nick is the best! I really really enjoyed going to lab mainly because of how great he is. He had the best attitude and such great energy that made it more enjoyable. Also, he was super clear in reviewing everything and made sure everyone felt okay / that they knew he was always there to help us”
- “Nick was my favorite GSI, he was kind, understanding, and had great knowledge of the course material. He made my transition online super easy, and overall was a fantastic GSI!”
- “Nick was an AMAZING GSI in my opinion. He was constantly enthusiastic, kind, and approachable. He made the material really easy to understand and digestible for everyone. He demonstrated clearly a love for statistics and it was very evident throughout the semester. He was super good at explaining difficult concepts in understandable ways.”
- “I thought Nick was a great GSI. He really took the time to answer everyone’s questions thoroughly, and checked in on our understanding periodically. Furthermore, I liked how passionate Nick is about statistics and made me want to learn more. Overall, I learned a lot during my stats lab this semester thanks to Nick.”
- “super clear communication, especially with communicating what is/isn’t due weekly and how to complete work effectively”
- “Nick made difficult topics approachable! I really appreciated his help when he explained topics in lab that we had gone over in lecture, because the different wording and experience with the material cemented my understanding. I also appreciated his excitement and gifs in his powerpoints.”

## Summer Program in Quantitative Methodology, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

Below are average scores on questions asked in participant course reviews specifically related to my role as a TA in the four-week Introduction to Multilevel Models course. Scores are on a five-point Likert scale with 5 = Strongly Agree, 1 = Strongly Disagree.

Question	NJS Mean	Program Mean
(NJS) explained material clearly	4.8	4.7
(NJS) showed genuine interest in the participants	4.8	4.7
(NJS) provided helpful comments on written work	4.9	4.6
During lectures, (NJS) effectively directed/stimulated discussion	4.8	4.4

(NJS) showed respect for participants	4.8	4.8
(NJS) helped me understand the material covered in this course	4.9	4.6
(NJS) was accessible to participants outside of class	4.9	4.8
(NJS) was thoughtful and precise in response to questions	4.8	4.7
(NJS)'s comments and evaluations of my work were very constructive	4.8	4.6
(NJS)'s activities complimented the instructor's work in the course	4.8	4.6
(NJS) was an effective part of the instructional team	4.9	4.7

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## Selected Qualitative Responses

Below are a subset of participant comments demonstrating teaching excellence in graduate-level settings. Participants may use the initialism “MLM”, for multi-level models.

- “[Nick was] the main reason this class was helpful for me. Met me at my level of understanding, went step by step with a good pace to ensure my questions were answered. Felt like no question I could ask him would be stupid. Provided larger links to my stats knowledge to help contextualize MLM.”
- “Nick was the best TA I’ve encountered at ICPSR. [...] I feel incredibly lucky to have had him as a resource.”
- “His explanations are very clear. He’s very committed to understanding the student’s problem in answering questions or grading assignments and explaining/answering from the student’s level.”
- “Very knowledgeable and it was nice that Nick had alternative ways of explaining class concepts. Was great about taking time to make sure you understood the topic/issue.”
- “Nick was awesome! I went to office hours a few times and there was no question too technical or too obvious for him. He answered everything fully.”