Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

Brian Curran

This document summarizes evidence of my teaching and mentoring effectiveness at the University of Chicago, including evaluations from undergraduate, master's, and doctoral courses and undergraduate thesis advising. In 2026, I received the Harris School of Public Policy's Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year Award. Across these settings, students consistently emphasize the clarity of my explanations, the organization and usefulness of my instruction, my responsiveness and availability, and the supportive environment I create for learning. Complete evaluations are available upon request.

Teaching Experience Represented in Evaluations

Course	Level	Term(s)	Role
Introductory Game Theory	Undergraduate	Spring 2023–Spring 2024	Lead TA
Senior Thesis Seminar	Undergraduate	2024–25, 2025–26	Preceptor
Microeconomics I	Master's	Autumn 2022	Head TA
Microeconomics II	Master's	Winter 2023, Winter 2024	Head TA
Advanced Statistics I	Master's	Autumn 2024	Head TA
Advanced Statistics II	Master's	Winter 2025, Winter 2026	Head TA
Advanced Microeconomics I	Master's	Autumn 2025	Head TA
Game Theory	PhD	Autumn 2023	Head TA

Quantitative Evaluation Results

TA-specific ratings (1–5) are available only for four terms of Introductory Game Theory and for Advanced Statistics II (Winter 2026). Because the evaluation instruments differ across courses, results are reported separately rather than combined into a single overall measure.

Introductory Game Theory - Undergraduate

Term	Facilitated learning	Helped me succeed	Available/helpful outside class	Overall contribution	N
Spring 2023	4.83	4.91	4.83	4.82	22
Autumn 2023	4.81	4.91	4.95	4.86	24
Winter 2024	4.65	4.65	4.80	4.75	28
Spring 2024	4.38	4.53	4.56	4.47	22

Advanced Statistics II – Master's, Winter 2026 (N = 15)

Evaluation item	Mean
Knowledgeable about course material	4.87
Taught material effectively	4.80
Interactive/engaging sessions	4.67
Timely/useful feedback	4.73
Available/helpful outside class	4.80
Inclusive/helpful environment	4.80

Selected Student Feedback

Explaining Difficult Material Clearly

Students frequently highlighted my ability to make difficult technical material more accessible.

> "His slides were put together well and really useful for reviewing. Before his TA session on solving for Perfect Bayesian equilibria I had no idea how to solve for Perfect Bayesian equilibria, and after the TA session I did."
>
> *PhD Game Theory, Autumn 2023*

> "Brian was a fantastic TA! So patient and really took the time to explain the material as many times as we needed if we weren't grasping the concept."
>
> *Microeconomics I, Autumn 2022*

> "He was very calm and patient explaining the different examples and how to solve them logically. He also helped me understand where I lost marks and how to improve."
>
> *Introductory Game Theory, Winter 2024*

Preparation and Effective Class Sessions

Students highlighted well-organized sessions that reinforced course concepts through worked examples and practice problems, with time to address their questions.

> "He creates these really helpful slides for discussion that have examples from our homework or more practice. His slides really helped me understand topics I was confused about."
>
> *Introductory Game Theory, Autumn 2023*

> "Brian Curran was a fantastic TA – he knew the content, worked through problems clearly in TA session, was always prepared, and left plenty of time to answer questions."
>
> *Microeconomics II, Winter 2023*

Accessibility and Individual Support
Students regularly highlighted my responsiveness, availability outside of class, and willingness to spend additional time working through their questions.

> "One of the most helpful TAs I've ever had – very responsive on Ed [the course discussion board], giving clear, detailed answers to doubts. Very patient and helpful during office hours, always willing to walk through problems with you. [I] also appreciated that he took regular feedback about the classes and TA sessions."
>
> *Advanced Statistics I, Autumn 2024*

> "He was incredibly responsive (both in person and through the online discussion board) and gave high quality answers to all questions. He is super knowledgeable, and was very thorough about making sure all follow-up questions were answered and even helping students consider questions beyond the course content."
>
> *Advanced Statistics II, Winter 2025*

Supportive Learning Environment and Mentoring
Students frequently mentioned that I created an environment in which they felt comfortable asking questions and provided individualized support in longer-term mentoring relationships.

> "He was always respectful and made people feel really comfortable asking questions. He never made anyone look silly for asking a question and he was really good at explaining the concepts."
>
> *Microeconomics I, Autumn 2022*

> "Excellent preceptor! He was supportive, flexible, and helpful. I fell out of contact with him in the middle of the quarter and missed some assignments and he reached out to make sure I was doing okay and get me on track, which I really appreciated."
>
> *Senior Thesis Seminar, 2024–25*