Summary of Teaching Evaluations 2022–2025

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1 Econometrics (ECON 36000)

Econometrics (ECON 36000) is a required core course that introduces students to the statistical techniques used to test economic theory, with an emphasis on estimating single-equation models and the problems associated with such estimation. Students learn to analyze multivariate economic relationships, conduct statistical inference, interpret empirical results, and perform data analysis using Stata.

Student feedback consistently emphasizes three themes: clarity, structure, and approachability. Many students note that the course makes a challenging subject accessible. One student wrote that although the class has a reputation for being the most difficult required course for economics majors, Professor Prowse made it understandable and worth learning (2022). Another described the instruction as knowledgeable and articulate, highlighting the detailed lectures and effective guidance through homework and in-class exercises (2023). A 2024 comment similarly stressed that the material was made engaging and easy to digest, despite expectations that the course would be difficult and grueling. Students also value the course design that pairs lectures with applied practice, with one student noting that the in-class exercises and pacing provided timely opportunities to practice new material (2025).

Taken together, the qualitative feedback aligns closely with the quantitative evaluation results in Table 1, which show that both instructor-related and course-related scores exceed the core-course benchmarks by 0.3 points on average across sections and years.

Table 1: Teaching evaluation scores, Econometrics (ECON 36000).

				Instructor-related			Course-related		
Year	Section	Enrollment	Response rate (%)	Score	Benchmark	Diff.	Score	Benchmark	Diff.
2025	1	53	100	4.7	4.3	0.4	4.6	4.3	0.3
2025	2	53	100	4.5	4.3	0.2	4.6	4.3	0.3
2024	1	59	98	4.6	4.3	0.3	4.4	4.3	0.1
2024	2	59	100	4.5	4.3	0.2	4.4	4.3	0.1
2023	1	56	100	4.6	4.2	0.4	4.6	4.2	0.4
2023	2	54	98	4.7	4.2	0.5	4.6	4.2	0.4
2022	1	40	98	4.6	4.3	0.3	4.5	4.3	0.2
2022	2	41	95	4.5	4.3	0.2	4.5	4.3	0.2
All	–	52	99	4.6	4.3	0.3	4.5	4.3	0.3

Notes: Evaluations use a five-point scale (1–5). Instructor-related scores report the mean of responses to PU CORE 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10, and course-related scores report the mean of responses to PU CORE 1 and 2 (see Section 3 below for more details). Benchmarks are mean scores for core courses across the Purdue economics program in the same semester. Diff. is score minus benchmark. The "All" row reports the mean of each column across all section–year observations.

2 Advanced Data Analysis and Machine Learning (ECON 46300)

Advanced Data Analysis and Machine Learning (ECON 46300) is an elective course in advanced applied econometrics with a strong emphasis on practical data analysis using Stata. Topics include multivariate linear regression, non-linear least squares, binary and categorical outcome models, machine learning methods for model selection, and panel data models. The course is designed to build the skills needed for empirical economic research, including choosing appropriate estimators, interpreting results, and communicating findings clearly.

Student feedback highlights both the rigor of the content and the clarity of instruction, with particular praise for the hands-on applied component. One student emphasized the value of the in-class exercises, noting that they provide practical experience with Stata and that questions are answered in a detailed and accessible way (2022). Another described the course as one of the best they had taken at Purdue, citing organized and helpful lectures and an instructor who is open to questions (2023). A 2024 comment stressed the focus on conceptual understanding and on linking Stata commands to their economic meaning, while feedback from 2025 again praised the intuitive explanations and the usefulness of the applied exercises.

These comments are reflected in the evaluation results in Table 2, which show that instructor-related and course-related scores consistently exceed the elective-course benchmarks by 0.3 points on average across years.

Table 2: Teaching evaluation scores, Advanced Data Analysis and Machine Learning (ECON 46300).

				Instructor-related			Course-related		
Year	Section	Enrollment	Response rate (%)	Score	Benchmark	Diff.	Score	Benchmark	Diff.
2025	1	43	98	4.6	4.5	0.1	4.7	4.4	0.3
2024	1	40	98	4.7	4.4	0.3	4.6	4.4	0.2
2023	1	17	94	4.8	4.3	0.5	4.8	4.4	0.4
2022	1	15	100	4.7	4.3	0.4	4.6	4.3	0.3
All	–	29	98	4.7	4.4	0.3	4.7	4.4	0.3

Notes: Evaluations use a five-point scale (1–5). Instructor-related scores report the mean of responses to PU CORE 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10, and course-related scores report the mean of responses to PU CORE 1 and 2 (see Section 3 below for more details). Benchmarks are mean scores for elective courses across the Purdue economics program in the same semester. Diff. is score minus benchmark. The "All" row reports the mean of each column across all section–year observations. The course was offered as ECON 49000 in 2022 and renamed ECON 46300 from 2023 onward.

3 Evaluation Questions

The tables in Sections 1 and 2 report mean scores for the following instructor-related and course-related questions from the Purdue teaching evaluation instrument.

Instructor-related questions

- **PU CORE 5:** The instructor clearly explains material so that I can understand it.
- **PU CORE 6:** The instructor is open to my questions and effectively answers them.
- **PU CORE 8:** The instructor willingly makes time to help other students and me.
- **PU CORE 9:** The instructor is fair and consistent in evaluating my performance in the course.
- **PU CORE 10:** The instructor created a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment.

Course-related questions

- **PU CORE 1:** The class activities are well prepared and organized.
- **PU CORE 2:** The assignments aid me in achieving the class objectives.