



**Instructional Assistant Student Evaluation of Teaching for Jiesen Zhang
Department of Cognitive Science**

Winter 2026 COGS 9 - Introduction to Data Science (Lai, Lucy)

Enrollment: 354

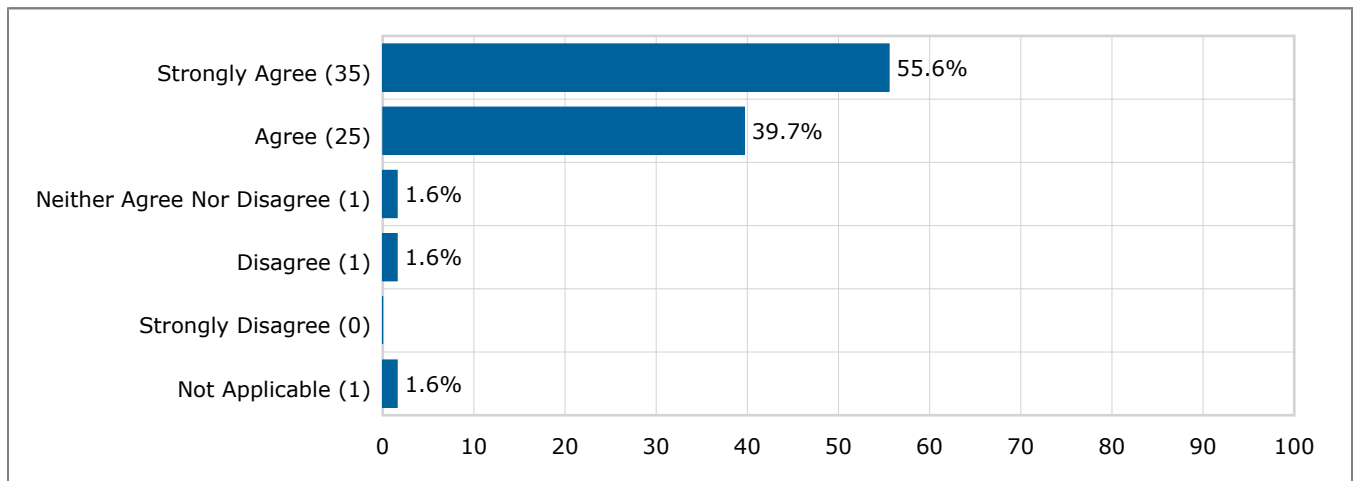
Responses: 63 (17.8% response rate)

Scoring Methodology

A numerical value is assigned to each response in the standard Likert Scale used for evaluations: Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Neither Agree Nor Disagree (3), Disagree (2), Strongly Disagree (1). Responses marked "No Opinion/Not Applicable" are excluded from mean calculations.

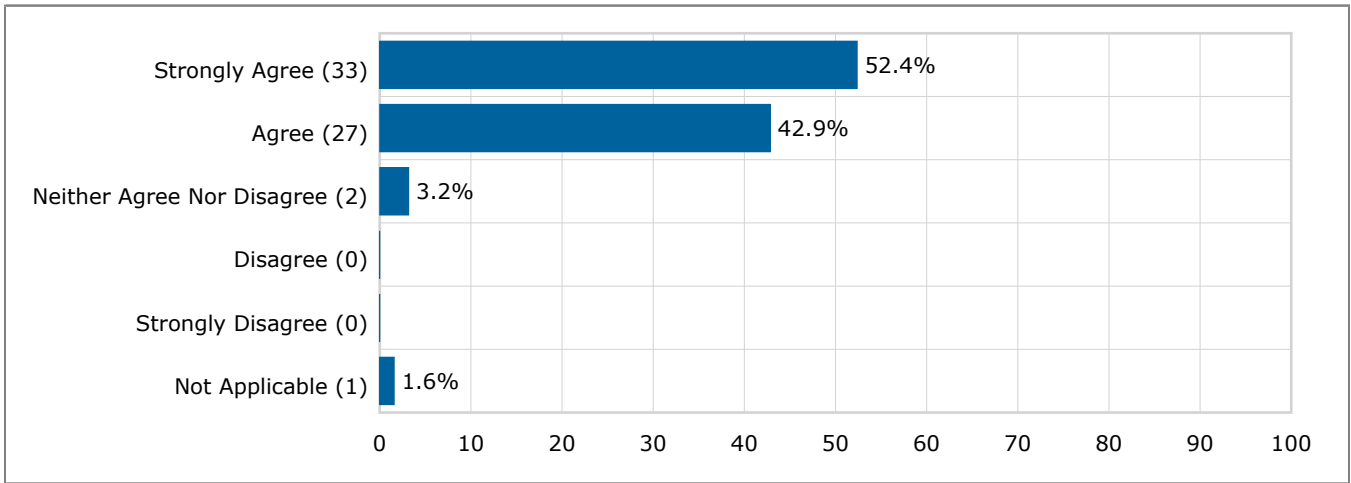
1. The Instructional Assistant used instructional methods in section and/or office hours that helped me learn and engage with the course material.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
95.2% Positive 1.6% Negative	4.52 ± 0.62 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	63 (100.00%)



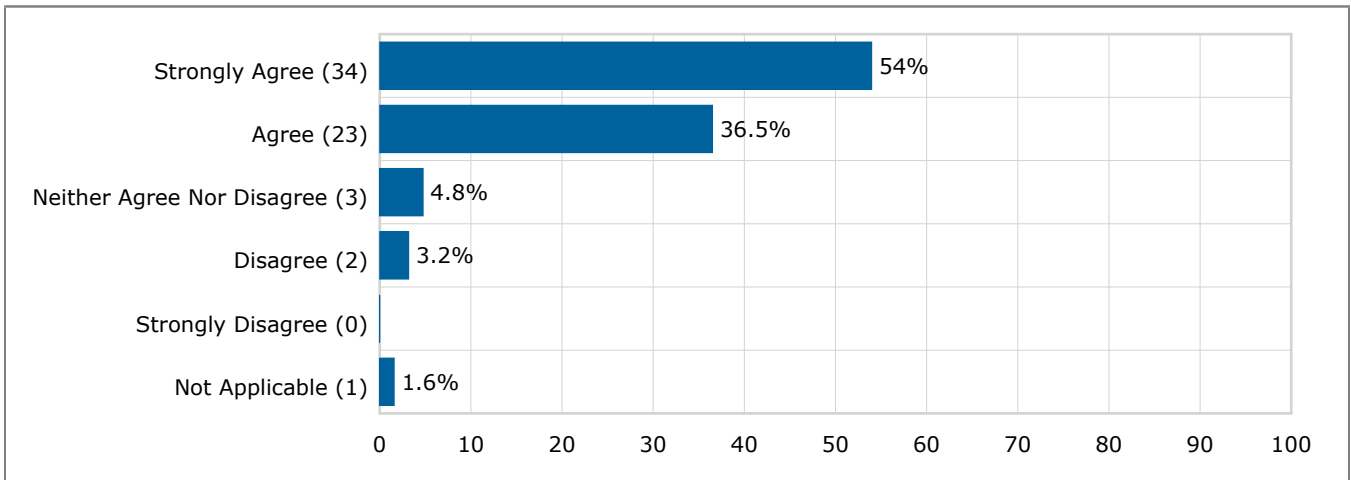
2. The sections led by this Instructional Assistant were well-coordinated with other components of this class (e.g., lecture, lab, assignments, etc.).

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
95.2% Positive	4.5 ± 0.56 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	63 (100.00%)



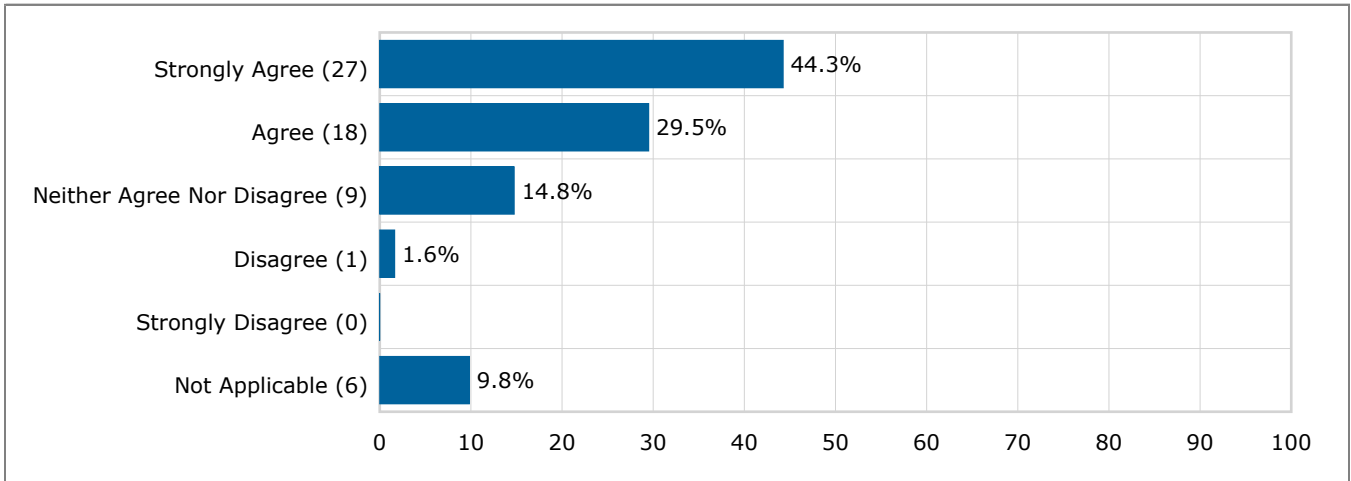
3. The Instructional Assistant communicated effectively.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
90.5% Positive 3.2% Negative	4.44 ± 0.73 (Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	63 (100.00%)



4. The Instructional Assistant provided constructive feedback on my work.

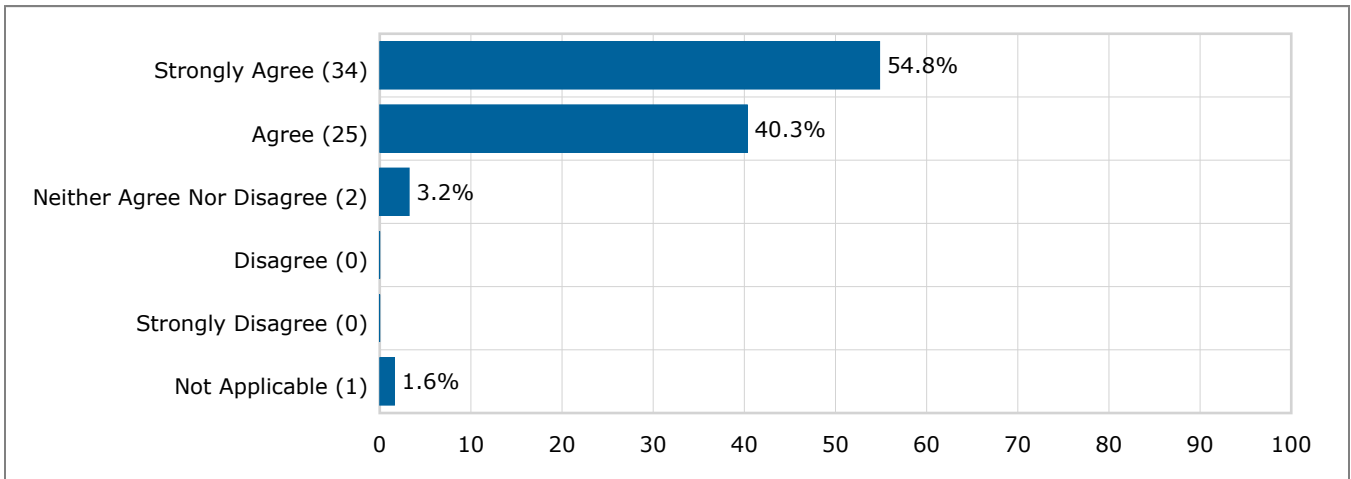
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
73.8% Positive 1.6% Negative	4.29 ± 0.80 (Agree)	4 (Agree)	61 (96.83%)



No Response: 2

5. The Instructional Assistant created a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

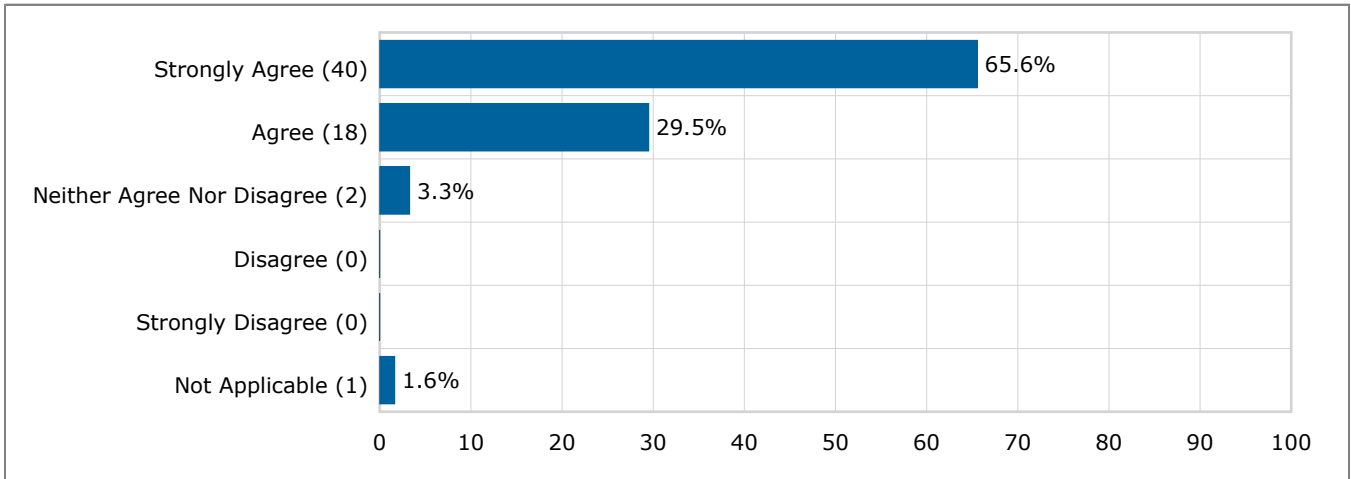
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
95.2% Positive	4.52 ± 0.56 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	62 (98.41%)



No Response: 1

6. The Instructional Assistant generally began and ended section/lab/office hours on time.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
95.1% Positive	4.63 ± 0.55 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	61 (96.83%)



No Response: 2

7. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that created or interfered with a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

Answered everyone.

At discussion time, the TA is very willing to help.

Discussion check in

Exam reviews were very helpful during exam weeks.

He answered the questions I asked him in class.

He explained everything kindly and responded with kind feedback

He was always really nice and talkative, plus he was always helpful with teachings and questions.

He was great when we talked in groups especially great

He would constantly ask for student input on their answers to questions, whether they were right or wrong, which made the environment very welcoming and open.

Interact with all students, make sure we understand.

Jiesen is a great person; he really explained everything sincerely. He really likes giving us stories or like examples from real-world situations, so that really helps out a lot. He also brought a guest speaker into class to give us some insight into what our future could look like. That was great as well.

No opinion

Nothing really interfered.

open discussion

open to questions

The discussion section was definitely welcoming for all students, and the TAs were all supportive.

The interactive discussion sections

The TA created a welcoming and comfortable environment during discussion sections. Whenever students asked questions, the TA tried to explain the answers carefully and often used examples to make the ideas easier to understand. It felt like the TA genuinely tried to help students and made it easy to ask questions.

Throughout the discussion, he asked us many questions and answered any that we had without hesitation or judgement.

very engaging and revision helped a lot

veyr useful section with a lot of great information

Was more laid back which helped create a welcoming environment

yes

8. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that particularly helped you to learn the material and/or encouraged you to feel that you could succeed in the course.

Allow questions during reivew

answered questions clearly

At discussion time, the TA explain the concept very carefully.

clicker questions

Discussion practice problems

discussion section

Discussion time especially when he is explaining or when we get to ask questions.

For more complicated topics, he took extra time to carefully explain and even provided visuals and examples on the board. Personally, I learn best through examples, so this really helped me understand the material.

Good explanation.

Had time after every discussion to answer questions.

He asked a lot of questions during class that checked our understanding throughout discussions.

He was a good lecturer and invited a guest speaker to talk about her own experiences in section.

His exam preparation sessions were very helpful in reviewing the contents.

hosts the discussion section and talked about machine learning topics like gradient descent, even though not specifically tied to course material but was really interesting

Jiesen explained everything clearly and noted what to remember from the practice questions that we did.

No opinion

Offering exam practice questions

practice questions that he gave out during section

Sections usually discuss questions that were definitely helpful as the TAs explained thoughtfully on how to obtain the answer or to address the question.

The examples that provided helped a lot with understanding the material.

The reviews and just questions and answers

The slides

the slides and questions

The TA was helpful in supporting students' learning during discussion sections. They provided exam reviews and explained answers clearly. The TA also walked through problems step by step, which made it easier to understand how to approach similar questions.

The way he'd answer questions was always really constructive and I never really felt lost, which helped me feel like I knew what I was doing in the class.

9. Please offer constructive suggestions that might help the Instructional Assistant improve their contribution to your learning of the course material.

I think it would be better to provide more interactive activities in the discussion sections.

I think on the easier questions less time explaining would be good

it was great!

Maybe taking it a little slower on some of the more complicated subjects while also maybe focusing on what we need to know for exams/assignments instead of the intricacies of stuff.

No opinion

Nothing great job

Nothing specific comes to mind.

practice midterm and study sheet

There was few participation during the class, which made it a bit awkward at times. The instructional assistant could try to incorporate more group discussions between students and not just sharing aloud in class.

They were perfect.

10. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with this Instructional Assistant?

He was a good TA. Thank you so much!

No opinion

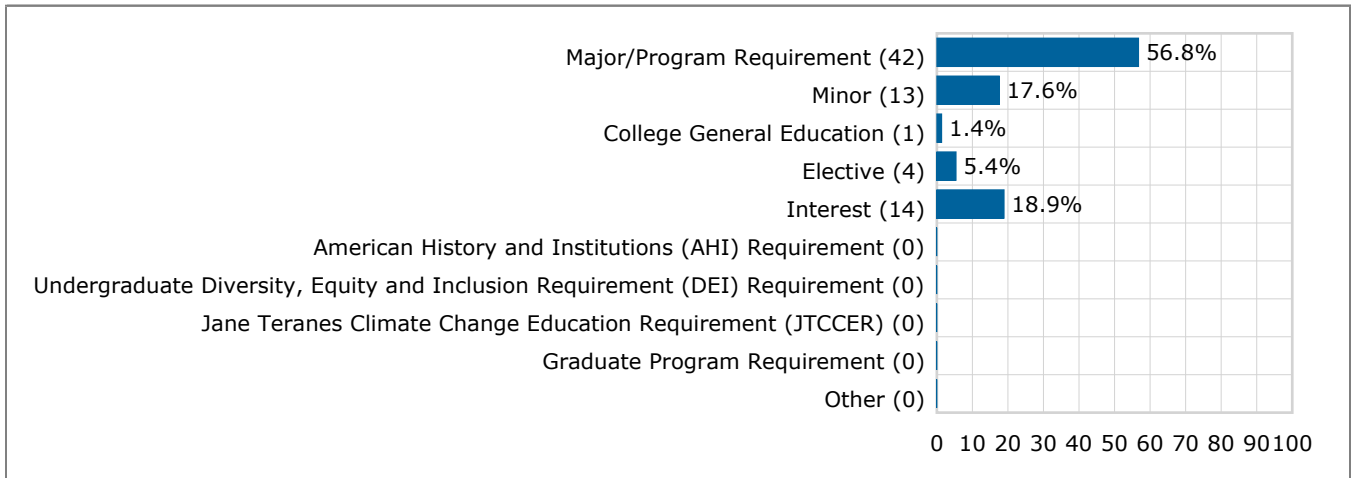
no, you did well thanks

Nonetheless, was a great section to attend, definitely helpful in terms of learning concepts, etc.

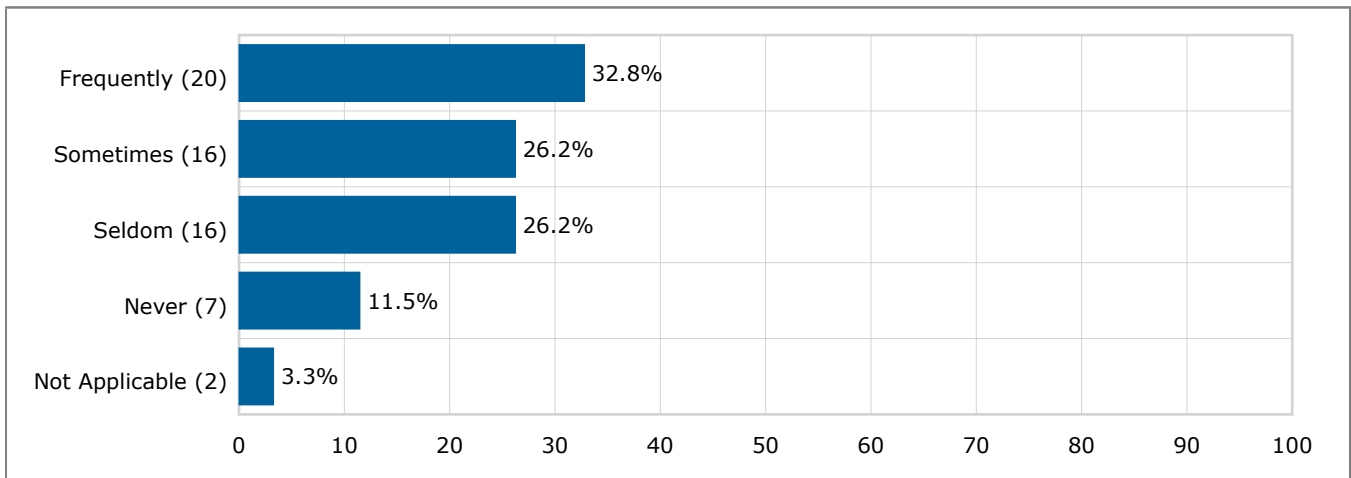
Not particularly.

Overall, I felt he was pretty well prepared and organized.

11. What was/were your reason(s) for taking this course?

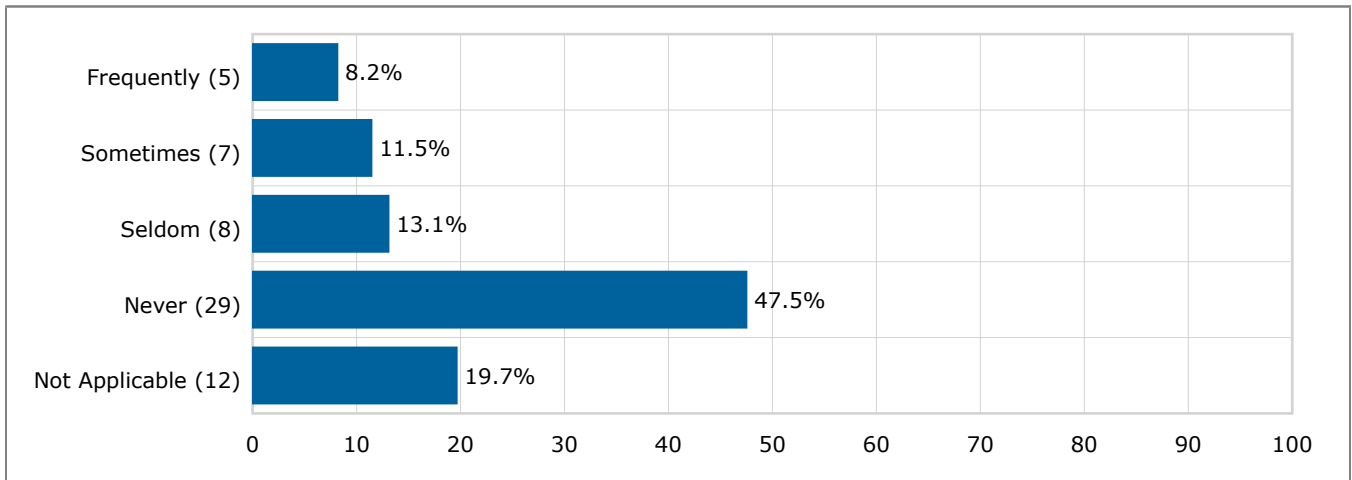


12. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **IN THE SECTION**?



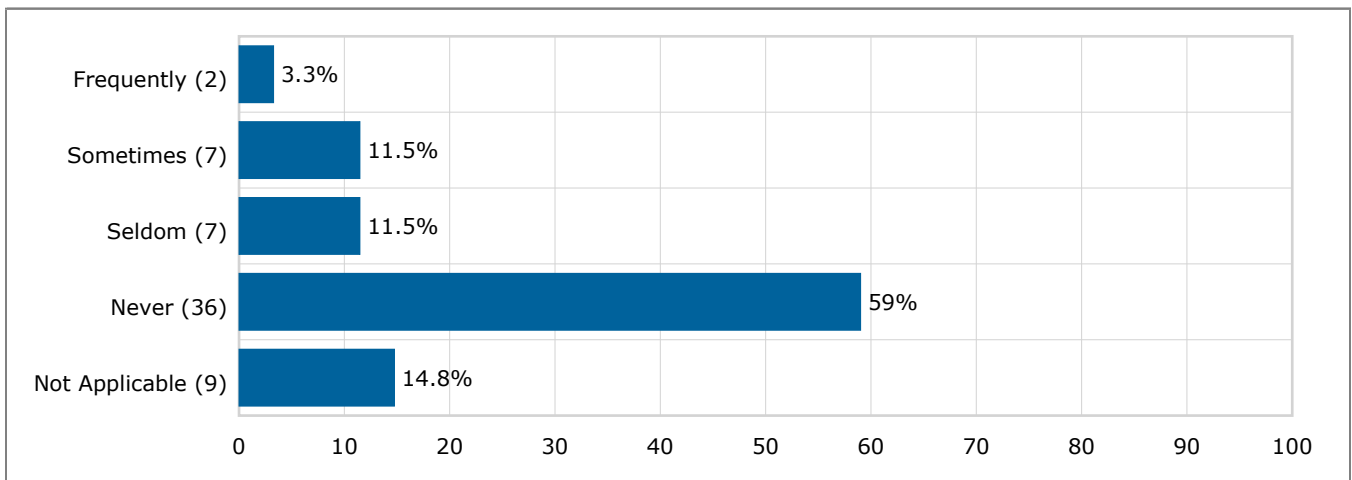
No Response: 2

13. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **DURING OFFICE HOURS** ?



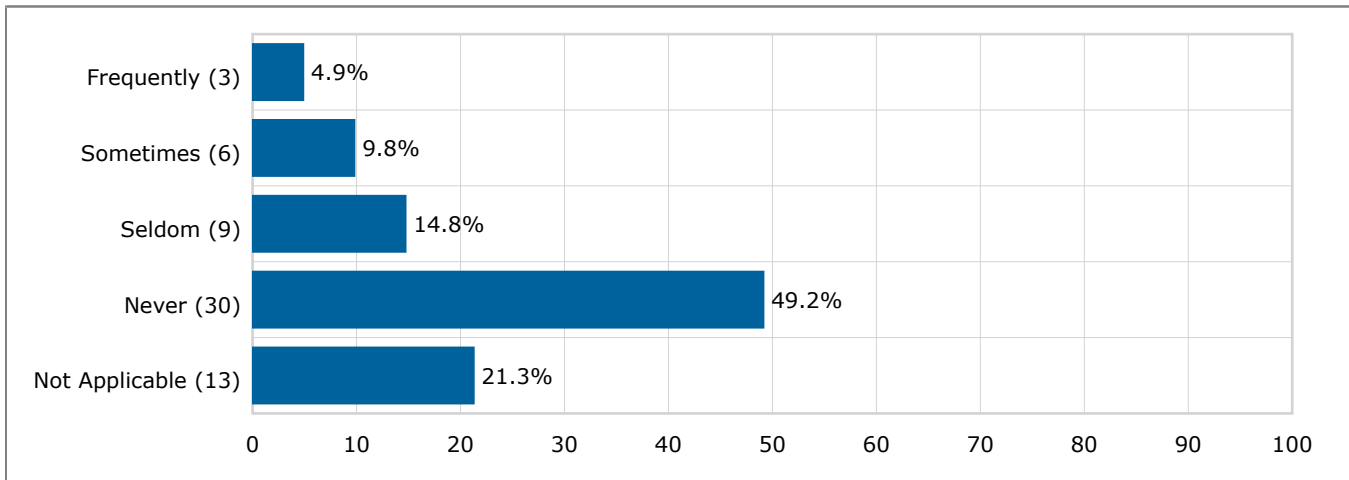
No Response: 2

14. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA EMAIL**?



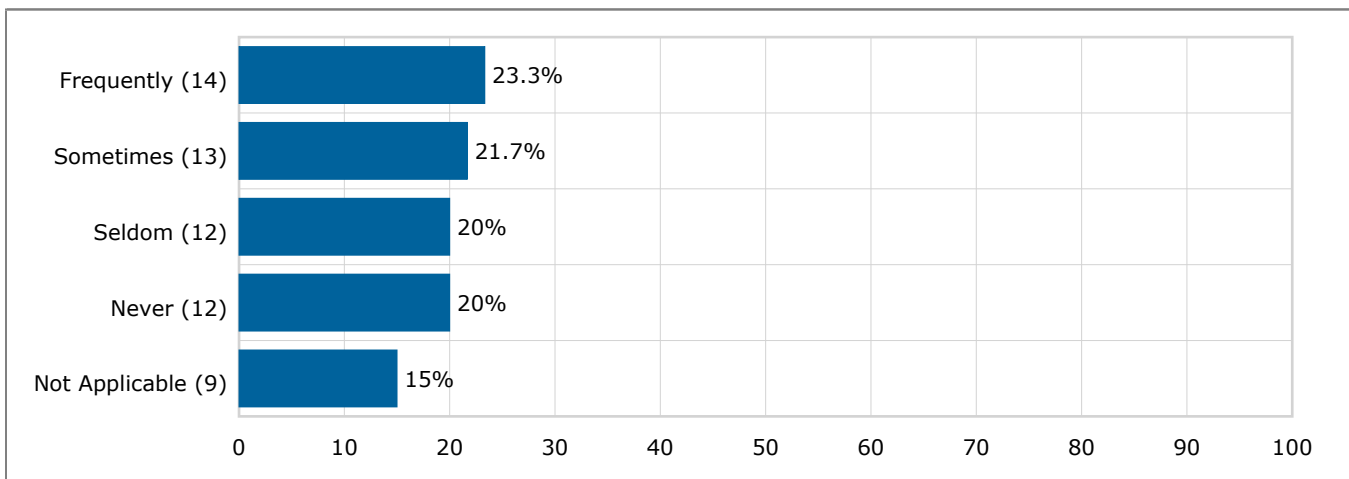
No Response: 2

15. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA THE COURSE DISCUSSION BOARD?**



No Response: 2

16. How often did you receive feedback from this instructional assistant on assignments/exams/papers?



No Response: 3

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