Three fundamental questions are tabulated from the University of Richmond end-of-term course evaluations available to all students. Institutional Effectiveness implemented on-line course evaluations across all schools in starting in 2010 using the remote-hosted CoursEval software application. Each question is scored by student responses using the following scale:

- Strongly Agree = 5
- Agree = 4
- Feel Neutral = 3
- Disagree = 2
- Disagree Strongly = 1

The three questions tabulated are numbered 10, 16, 23 in the on-line form:

**Question 10.** The course significantly increased my knowledge of the subject.

**Question 16.** Considering the difficulty of the subject, the teacher was clear and understandable.

**Question 23.** The quality of teaching in this course was very good.

The table below displays average scores for these three questions, along with enrollment data, for courses taught between 2014-2019. The table does not include ratings for independent study courses (stochastic processes, linear models, nonparametric statistics, Bayesian statistics).

**Individual Feedback**

The following responses were taken from one of the questions for soliciting personal feedback from the students.

**Question 26.** Please summarize in a paragraph or two your evaluation of this teacher.

Reflecting the majority of evaluation scores, most of the comments are positive. However, critical comments and suggestions are also included in the list and may be beneficial to prospective students.
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*Enrollment Data and Course Evaluation Scores, 2014-2019*
Math 209: Introduction to Statistical Modeling

F15 Dr. Kvam is always prepared for class, and leads discussions effectively. He is a genuinely nice professor that cares about his students and that they fully understand the material being taught. He encourages students to ask questions, and is helpful and clear when giving responses.

F15 The homework given in this course was relatively challenging, and reinforced concepts taught in class. The tests were straightforward and fair, and with studying it was not difficult to get an A on them. This course, while not the most challenging, has definitely increased my knowledge of statistics. I feel that the information I learned from this course can actually be applied to what I am studying, and will be helpful later on.

F15 Dr. Kvam did a very good job going over all of the content in a clear and easy to understand manner, even when the subject matter was more difficult. His tests were fair and he gave us plenty of resources to study for the tests effectively. He also did a good job relating the theories that we were learning in class to the world around us so that we would understand the implications. I thought that this was very helpful.

F15 Professor Kvam is a really really great prof. He knows so much about statistics, and he actually cares about statistics and this really rubs off on his students. He comes prepared and enthusiastic to every class, even though it’s an 8am section.

S17 Professor Kvam is a knowledgeable teacher that knows a lot about the subject he teaches. His lab modules are very helpful as far as following along is concerned. As far as the course material that was going to be on his tests, he was pretty good at portraying what material would be on there, with a few exceptions. Overall he’s a decent professor and I’d recommend him to others.

S17 I’m disappointed I took this course because I’m pretty sure it is going to bring down my GPA and I took this class for fun. I’m a psych major and wanted the extra backing of statistics, but we didn’t learn how to read z and t-tables which is a basic part of that. This class was ridiculously hard and I don’t feel I really learned anything that is applicable that I can walk away with.

S17 Dr. Kvam is the worst teacher I have ever, ever had. He isn’t helpful at all. I don’t pay attention in class anymore, because he only confuses us. I have to teach the lesson to myself in my free time. He makes fun of students who can’t keep up with him in the notes. He is unfit to be a professor, and would spend his time better at a research university. He is obsessed with r-coding. R-coding is a pointless coding language that only confuses students.

S17 Dr. Kvam is a horrible teacher. I have actively discouraged friends from taking any of his classes.

F17 Overall, I think Dr. Kvam is a very good teacher and I have learned a lot about statistics from him. Coming from a student that did not take statistics in high school, but learned a little about probability, I felt I learned a lot from this course and a lot of that is due to Dr. Kvam helping me understand the material either via modules, or just the explanations during lectures. I would recommend this statistics class with this particular professor to others!

F17 The course is very great! Statistics is a difficult course and the R programming in this class can be difficult at times. Nevertheless, the skills I learned were very useful and I learned a lot.

F17 Professor Kvam is a good teacher and he doesn’t hesitate to help if needed. The only criticism I could express would just be how dense his material is. The homework assignments aren’t too long, but the concepts in which they use are
extensive in terms of reading statistics concepts. I don’t know if he controls the material since each course has guidelines in which they follow so it may not be a professor issue.

F17 Dr. Kvam always presented information very clearly in class, and provided very helpful modules to go with each topic. He also was very good about communicating expectations for homework, quizzes, and exams. Overall, he was a great statistics professor!

F18 Overall, it was a great class in terms it had the content and was applicable to modern statistical modeling programming. I think the professor was very open to questions and invested time in his students to do well. The delivery of the material could be slightly improved in more examples and less lecture based. At times it was hard to follow what was being verbally said about math problems.

F18 Professor Kvam was very knowledgeable on the subject. He taught this class using a mixture of stats and a program that should help you solve statistical problems. However, I had struggled with the program so I feel fairly bias on how the class went and wish the professor had spent more time explaining how to use the program for each section.

F18 He did a good job at teaching stats, especially with teaching the R code with each lesson. His comments on our homework made it easier to understand our mistakes and compare it to the homework solutions.

F18 Kvam is a very kind professor. He has a very good heart. His one drawback is a big one. He struggles with explaining topics. I often felt more confused coming out of class then I did going in. This is because I felt I was comfortable with the topics because of AP statistics, but after coming out of class I doubted myself when I shouldn’t have.

**Math 289: Introduction to Data Science**

F16 Kvam is an effective teacher who will teach you the material. Class is an important activity that should be attended.

F16 Given this class was just created this semester, Prof. Kvam did a fantastic job. I really learned a lot from this applied regression class and R program. I even found a internship that is just about programming in R.

F16 Dr. Kvam is the best mathematics professor I have had at this school. He is the main reason that I am so interested in statistics, and I wish he was teaching another elective next semester! He is kind, funny, and clear about the material. And whenever I had a question about class material, he would always put down whatever he was working on to assist me in his office.

F16 Dr. Kvam is an excellent math professor. He is very patient with students and clearly spends a lot of time preparing for every class. His course expectations are fair and evenly applied to all.

F19 I found Dr. Kvam to be a great teacher. His knowledge of statistics helped me to better understand the field and its relation to computer science. Dr. Kvam made the class interesting and fun by using R to help us understand computer science and its relation to the field of statistics.

F19 This class was so much fun. I liked how we were able to learn a valuable computing language in combination with statistics to understand how a statistical programming language works. I really liked how we were assigned to come up with our own final project. It gave us the freedom to explore data science on
our own and use our knowledge of R to help create a thoughtful and interesting project. I would recommend this class to others.

F19 I am interested in Data Science so I am glad I took this course. Some of the assignments were tricky and the notes and material learned in class was not helpful in completing it. I had to look online for help sometimes. Also, some of the topics in the exams were tricky. But, I am glad I took this course as it helped gauged my interest in data science.

F19 Professor Kvam is very knowledgable. The course teaches a very good hard skill to have and is overall very useful. The insight into software application of statistics and data analysis is very interesting and made this course a great choice.

Math 329: Probability

F14 Being Dr. Kvam’s first semester I thought he overall did a great job. I do think he could improve class time by doing more test related examples and maybe improving his delivery of notes. Whenever I went to office hours to ask a question he was not very helpful. He would usually just do the problem or get flustered when I really needed guidance step by step throughout the problem so I would be able to do it on my own. However, he was still a very enjoyable teacher and I think with a little practice he will become excellent.

F14 Dr. Kvam is one of the best math professors I have had at this school. Extremely outgoing, funny, and personable, he makes it easy for students to feel comfortable in the class. In terms of pure teaching, I thought he did a very good job when working out homework problems. Some of the proofs and theory knowledge did seem a little harder to grasp however. Additionally, I really did not like the use of the projector in the classroom, it made it difficult to see often- simply writing on the board would have been more effective for me. Having said that, I really did enjoy Dr. Kvam. He really did do a good job on solutions and explanations.

F15 Professor Kvam is one of the best professors I’ve had at UR, and I’d recommend him to anyone. He is very funny and down-to-earth. It sounds silly, but it’s very cool that he doesn’t have a big ego while being as smart as he is. He is clear and easy to understand despite the difficult content.

F15 This is the most challenging math course I have taken at UR so far. Any success or satisfaction I enjoy as the course nears its close is attributable to Dr. Kvam’s breaking the course down into manageable sections and the integration of LaTeX into the course, which is something very practical that I can immediately take away from this class.

F15 This course is difficult but very interesting. The topics link together well and build upon each other. Simple memorization will be no use. This course forces students to fully understand and apply the material in order to do well.

S16 Best math professor I had at UR. He is well organized and structured. Very clear in explaining. Challenges his students, but is still a fair grader. Would definitely recommend him.

S16 I would have preferred that less of the class was spent on examples and more of the class spent on discussing the actual material. Sometimes the examples would make little sense, making them an ineffective teaching tool, if the material was not yet entirely understood. The teacher, however did make himself available outside class, which was very helpful and made up for the imbalance in class.
S16 The instructor was prepared, covered course material at a reasonable pace, assigned a reasonable amount of homework to reinforce course concepts, gave reasonable assessments on a regular basis, and was regularly available outside of class for a reasonable period of time.

F16 Kvam won’t answer some questions directly and instead directs you to where you should study. This led to me not asking him questions anymore, because I felt like I may as well just use that time to start finding the answers on my own.

F16 Dr. Kvam is a knowledgeable and passionate professor in statistics. He knows the material so well that he can deliver the essence of probability theories to us. He also makes the class interesting and engaging.

F17 Professor Kvam is obviously excited for and passionate about statistics and math in general. I think that his enthusiasm both helped his teaching but was also a bit of a downfall. In some class lectures/notes, he would go really fast through examples and not explain where he got parts from. I think Professor Kvam is a great teacher, but he has really high expectations for understanding that material prior to class that I couldn’t reach. Despite this, he was a wonderful teach with a great sense of humor!

F17 Dr. Kvam is a great teacher. I say this because I’m not good at understanding Math as quickly as other people might be but Dr. Kvam makes the hard topics in class a lot more bearable. I honestly thought I would have to drop the course at some point but my understanding of probability and motivation to learn probability definitely increased because of Dr. Kvam’s teaching style and his ability to teach. He is very concise and thorough. He answers all the questions students ask in class and is very receptive and helpful outside of his class. Overall, great teacher, great teaching style, and great class. I definitely would recommend any and all of his classes to other students especially those who want to pursue Math but feels as if their foundation is not strong enough to pursue Math.

S18 I have encouraged students to wait as long as possible to not have to take this course with this professor. I would never recommend any student take a class with this professor and think the quality of his teaching was so poor that it made me question if I wanted to continue with mathematics any further. Students have asked me about taking this course and I have warned them that they should not take it if it is taught by this professor because I think their time would be better spent studying anything else with any other professor here.

S18 I was really pleased with the level of instruction by Dr. Kvam. He is an extremely approachable and friendly person, and his expectations for the course were clear. I also appreciated his sense of humor throughout class because probability has the potential to be somewhat dry but he made it interesting. His tests were very fair because his expectations were clear. I would definitely recommend him to my peers, and I wish that I had the opportunity to take one of his classes again.

S18 Needs to learn to start simply when explaining. Also, the weekly homework were far too time consuming for the amount of points they were worth.

S18 Dr. Kvam has a clear interest in the subject, and a clear desire to pass this interest along to students. He is enthusiastic about the material, and prepared every lecture so that it was easy to follow, and the material was easy to understand, clarifying topics from the textbook.

F18 Professor Kvam provides detailed notes during class along with multiple handouts to reinforce the material. He provides sample questions from old exams to prepare which is really helpful to grasp the material. Whenever, I went to ask questions, he was always helpful and guiding me rather than just giving me the answer. This helped me with my critical thinking. Overall, he was very
helpful and patient. He was one of the professors I highly recommend in the Math department.

F18 Dr. Kvam is an awesome professor who I really liked as a person, I enjoyed his class, but I feel like he could teach the class in much more effective ways. He shows us how to do a lot of examples in class, which are good, but I feel like more time should be spent teaching and making sure we understand topics before applying them to specific situations. I found myself studying from just my textbook for the most part and only looked to any class notes for examples, a lot of concepts and understanding was done through reading and testing myself on the knowledge I had read.

F18 Dr. Kvam is excellent. His guidances are perfectly effective and efficient. The way he manages the materials is also brilliant such that even the hardest materials like probability models are clear with fair amount of difficulty. While he builds up a solid foundation such that students are well prepared for future courses, he expands the content such that we could see the beauty of a higher level mathematics.

F18 He is not a good professor. He does not explain the concepts well. I went to office hours so often for extra help and still was not succeeding the way I wanted to be. I put so much extra effort into this class and still feel like I do not have a great understanding of this course.

S19 Dr Kvam is a brilliant mathematician and I've always walked out of his office satisfied with his answers. His homework assignments are very comprehensive. If done alone and with enough time, they serve as the perfect tool to understand the topic. The exams are also well-balanced and challenging enough.

S19 Dr. Kvam was always prepared for class and effectively conveyed the information of the book and course. He was helpful in office hours as well and when you asked him questions in class he was very receptive and helpful. Overall good and challenging course.

S19 Overall, this teaching style was not effective for me. Very hard and straining hw assignments to complete on lack of knowledge of material.... in terms of personality, very-much student oriented and 10/10 would kill the grill at a cookout.

S19 I think at times Dr. Kvam meant well, but he was rather condescending at other times. I felt as though he did not explain probability particularly well. He sometimes went quickly and skipped steps in explanation. He once wrote a frowning face on my homework assignment, which I did not appreciate, and I did not think amounted to constructive criticism.

F19 Overall, very-well prepared. Provided useful resources, such as notes, worksheets, homework solutions and practice exams. Material is a hard to grasp and the pace of teaching is very fast. His office hours are super helpful, but the class itself requires you to spend a considerable amount of time outside of class digesting the material.

F19 I have nothing bad to say about Dr. Kvam. He is intellectually brilliant, compassionate, and even a bit funny from time to time. I think he engaged the class well and taught the material well. I would strongly consider taking a class with him again.

F19 I found myself coming to class unprepared as it was expected that we had learned the material through the book prior to class, which I was not used to nor do I enjoy. I found myself falling behind and needing to frantically catch up before assignment due dates and exam days.
F19 Dr. Kvam is incredibly organized, preparing handouts for the class that are clear and concise and approaching new topics in a structured way. The assignments he gives us reinforce the topics we learn in class and makes us well-prepared for exams, along with the extra practice problems and practice exams he posts on blackboard. He is clear about his expectations of us in the course, available when students need to meet/ask questions outside of class, and was very accommodating when I needed to miss a class to attend a conference. Overall, Dr. Kvam is an excellent professor and I would definitely take a course with him again or recommend him to my peers.

Math 330: Mathematical Statistics

S15 It is incredible to see how much more adjusted Dr. Kvam is to UR this semester in statistics compared to last semester in probability. This semester, Dr. Kvam sets very clear expectations and assigns several graded homework and projects for students to gain practice with statistics. For me, at least, clear expectations and extra assignments are welcome reaffirmations that I am understanding the material. Also, the homework due on Wednesdays during his unofficial office hour was great—it brought everyone in the class together and encouraged collaboration.

S15 As always, Dr. Kvam is hilarious and engaging in class. He is knowledgeable and always makes (often complex) statistics relatable to students. He explains the motivations and applications for each concept we study. This semester I have no suggestions for Dr. Kvam—he is one of my favorite professors at UR!

S16 Dr. Kvam is one of the best professors at UR. Extremely smart, he puts a lot of effort into his lectures, and he always has a humorous and positive attitude. His assignments and tests are fair and challenging. I would recommend his courses to anyone interested in math.

S17 I think Dr. Kvam was a good teacher for the subject and he definitely understands it very well. There were times where I had some difficulty following the logic due to skipped steps assumed to be understood by the student but I was always able to figure it out if it’s right or not. Other than that, Dr. Kvam makes Statistics kind of fun and interesting.

S18 I found the book unhelpful and not clearly written. It is difficult to reference back to previous material and does not highlight important material for easier reading. The practice exams were helpful in preparing for the exams, but only some of the examples in the book and assigned homework problems were helpful. I think we would benefit from more moderately difficult problems than some of the more difficult homework problems. I liked that introductions to bootstrapping and Bayesian statistics were given.

S18 Dr. Kvam is a nice guy and quite knowledgeable. The problem with the course is the format that it takes. It’s really hard to feel like you’ve learned the material
when all you do is the occasional problem set and watch Dr. Kvam do problems in class. When he explains the intuition behind what we are doing, the course is better.

S19 Dr. Kvam is very helpful, patient and dedicated to students. His lectures are clear, interesting and inspirational. This course is educational and illuminating. The calculations are sometimes frustrating (likelihood ratio test), but the big picture is interesting.

S19 I like this course much more than probability, and I think I understand the material more as well. I really enjoy learning about Bayesian statistics, and it makes sense! The homework is difficult and time-consuming, but I have learned since probability that I need to read the book and start them over the weekend. Test questions have a good difficulty and are graded fairly, if not generously. In terms of where I stand after the class, I think it has given me a good baseline knowledge and sense of comfort with the theory of statistics.