

Elise Askelsen Course Evaluation Summary

MATH 1460: Calculus for the Biological Sciences (Spring 2021)	Course Mean	Dept. Mean
Organization- The instructor used class time well	5.85	4.85
Clarity- The instructor communicated course material clearly	5.79	4.66
Learning Focused- The instructor's teaching methods helped students learn	5.84	4.65
Learning Materials- The assignments, readings, and activities facilitated student learning	5.59	4.87
Assessment- Assessments (such as quizzes, papers, and exams) aligned with course objectives	5.69	4.98
Support- Help was available for students	5.86	5.0

*The above table gives the mean scores valued out of six that Elise Askelsen received for questions answered by students on the end-of-semester course evaluation forms for courses and discussions taught at The University of Iowa. The right most column provides the department mean scores out of six for comparison.

Thirty-six of fifty-five students completed this survey.

Individual Student Comments:

In response to the question: What aspects of the course were most useful for your learning?

- I liked how she explained things and was very good with how she spent her class time.
- I really liked the discussion sections. I was able to get all of my questions answered and improve my understanding.
- This discussion group had a really good environment for learning. The TA was really helpful and let dictate what things we needed to work on the most.
- She was very helpful in explaining problems in an in-depth way that helped me understand them.
- All of it. The review problems, everything was perfect.
- Homework, discussions, exit tickets.
- Going through examples during discussion.
- Elise was a fantastic TA; easily one of the best I have had at Iowa. Everything was communicated in a way that was easily understood. It was clear she really wanted her students to comprehend the material.
- I enjoyed in person a lot. Especially when she went in depth and showed how to do certain aspects of the class.
- Office hours were very helpful this semester!
- Elise was always extremely confident in her knowledge of the material, and there were only a few times in which she didn't know the answer to a question presented. You can tell that she is extremely passionate about what she is teaching, which makes the discussion fun to go to. I left every discussion with a better understanding than when I came in.
- Example and practice problems really helped me understand the course content. Elise seemed to know just which areas were tricky and needed further explanation. She also was great at answering our questions!
- You were very helpful during discussion. Whenever I did not understand a topic, you explained it in a nice way that made it easier to understand!
- I liked going through the worksheet material together. I feel like the highlighted, most important material was covered very thoroughly.
- When my instructor went thoroughly through a problem if I did not understand it.
- She did a nice job of thoroughly explaining questions and how to go about answering them.
- The discussion sections and homework assignments helped me a lot. Everyone's questions were always answered and Elise explained things in a way that we all understood it.

- I really liked how you walked through things step by step and gave us other little helpful hints and whatnot to make problems more doable.
- The worksheets and you explaining things and always asking for questions if we have any as well as being accommodating to those on zoom.
- I really liked that you had the class like a discussion. You really explained everything well and made class a very good experience.
- I think discussion was very helpful because it was very specific with definitions and examples. I also liked the exit tickets because they helped me realize if I was confused over something if I couldn't answer a simple question. Because they were so simple and usually involved something I would see on the exam, they were very helpful.
- The practice problems and exit tickets helped to hammer the concepts down.
- Engaged students.
- Working on the worksheet as a group and with individual time in class, having time to ask your questions for exam prep.
- Elise is amazing at explaining and going through problems, her discussions helped me tremendously.
- I think discussion worksheets were the most helpful resource for discussion. These worksheets kept us occupied for most of class time and also helped really learn the material. I liked going through each problem on the board as a class because it helped me not only learn from Elise, but also from my peers. I think going through the step by step process helped me understand the concepts better than just watching lecture and doing homework on my own.

In response to the question: When this class is taught again, what changes would you suggest?

- I would suggest getting more student involvement.
- I thought this discussion is really good as is.
- None- Elise ran discussion section great.
- I would suggested try making it in person all the time. It helps kids way more than going to zoom.
- Nothing, Elise was a great TA!
- I would suggest leaving more time to go over quiz and homework material.
- I don't have any suggestions because I had a good experience and, for the most part, full understanding of the material. If I had any questions it would have been easy to get in touch, so I really appreciate that.
- There's not really much more that can be done in discussion section that was already done. Going over example problems has been and will continue to be beneficial.
- None! Everything in the class was great. Enough time for work, small group discussion, and questions!
- Move on if students Don't answer the question and go in to explaining it
- I think the structure of discussion worked really well. We usually got everything done during class and even had some extra time at the end of class for questions. I would suggest keeping the structure the same with discussion worksheets and exit tickets.

In response to the question: What else would you like your instructor to know about your experience in this course?

- Elise was a great TA and was very helpful when she was teaching the material.
- I really liked her and thought she was very sweet and understanding to people who didn't quite understand the material. She always had different ways of teaching and was very collaborative which was nice.
- Elise was a great TA and amazingly patient
- Elise is a great instructor. She answers everyone's questions effectively and creates a very positive and welcoming learning environment.
- I found this discussion to be really helpful.
- Although I stopped attending in person because my depression got worse. She was excellent at explaining her steps in a math problem and was super friendly. I also loved that if she didn't know an answer to a question students had, she was determined to find an answer.

- Elise was a great TA and she truly understands the course material which made her a good teacher!! Thank you!!
- Amazing TA. Truly could not commend her enough for how much she helped out her students.
- I had a lot of fun. It made it more fun when she got to know the people in her class.
- I had a lot of fun this semester, and I would most definitely take this course again! Thank you!
- Elise is definitely a huge reason I am passing this class, I'm very thankful!
- Elise is such a nice person and her great attitude makes learning calculus so fun!
- I had a good experience with discussion sections and cleared up lecture confusion well.
- I enjoyed being in this discussion section! I'm glad I met you and made new friends!
- Thank you! You made me kind of enjoy calculus, as much as possible for me haha!
- I really liked discussion because of how enthusiastic you were. It is very hard to focus and want to learn when TA's are more quiet or seem uninterested. I also really appreciated that you told us what we should expect/ needed to know for quizzes. It helped me know what I needed to study or go over before quizzes.
- Elise was friendly and knew what she was talking about. Discussion was useful for my learning.
- This was by far my favorite discussion. Not only did you make things easy to understand but you interacted in a way that made us feel as if it wasn't a chore. The availability for extra help and questions was always appreciated. I wish I could have you as a teacher, then I would always understand math!
- She was a great teacher and you can tell she really cares about her students
- Elise is the best TA I have had yet, you can really tell she cares about her students and their learning.
- I always looked forward to my discussion. Elise was super friendly and helpful whenever anyone had questions. Out of all my TA's, Elise has been my favorite and I feel comfortable reaching out to her for any questions I have. I think Elise did a great job preparing the class for quizzes and exams. She also was very helpful whenever someone needed a better explanation and always found a way to make calculus more interesting