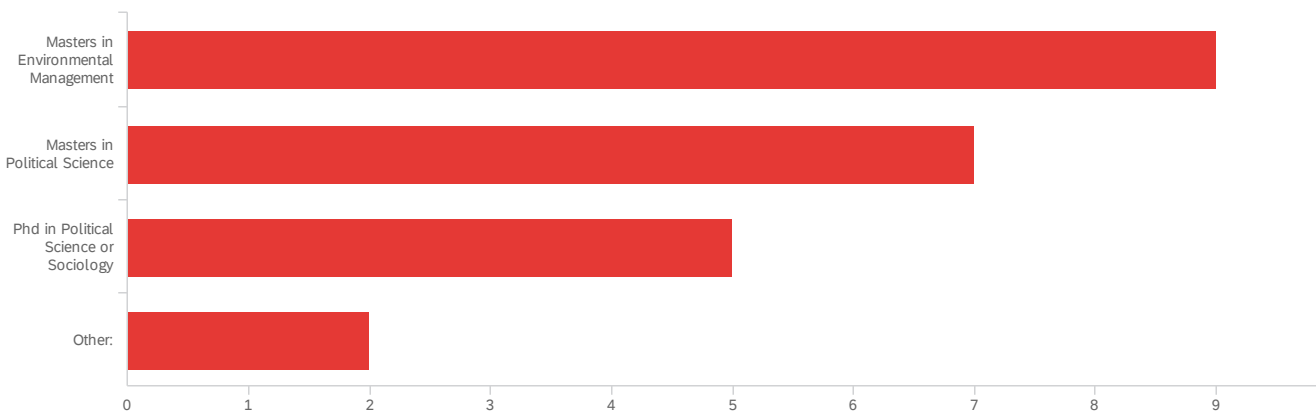


Default Report

cm4ss 2021 Course Evaluation

August 17, 2021 10:36 AM MDT

Q1 - What graduate program are you enrolled in at Duke?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	What graduate program are you enrolled in at Duke? - Selected Choice	1.00	4.00	2.00	0.98	0.96	23

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Masters in Environmental Management	39.13% 9
2	Masters in Political Science	30.43% 7
3	Phd in Political Science or Sociology	21.74% 5
4	Other:	8.70% 2
		23

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

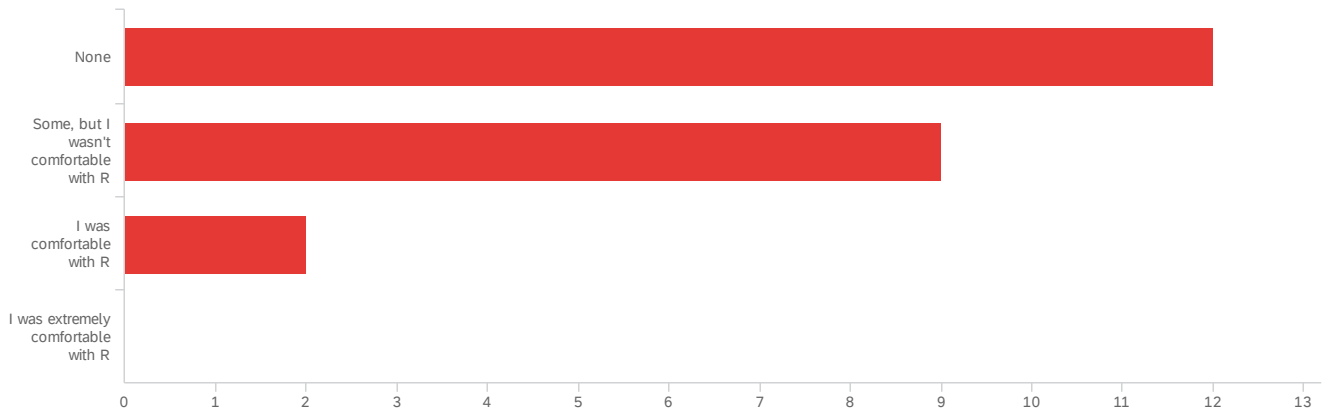
Program_4_TEXT - Other:

Other:

Masters in International Development Policy

MEM/MBA

Q2 - How much experience did you have with R before boot camp?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How much experience did you have with R before boot camp?	1.00	3.00	1.57	0.65	0.42	23

#	Field	Choice Count
1	None	52.17% 12
2	Some, but I wasn't comfortable with R	39.13% 9
3	I was comfortable with R	8.70% 2
4	I was extremely comfortable with R	0.00% 0

23

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

Q3 - What is one thing that went well in the class and contributed to your learning?

What is one thing that went well in the class and contributed to your learn...

The readings were highly informative and, for the most part, easy to follow. They provided helpful examples to illustrate concepts as they were explained. The examples were easy to replicate in RStudio. Nick was flexible in his teaching and adjusted class priorities to meet students' needs.

I always felt that Professor Eubank answered questions very clearly in class.

I was able to go from total panic to relative comfort with the language.

I think it was the Q&A session in the class and the home & in-class exercises which helped us practice what we read in the class material.

Questions and answers.

I think that both the accessibility and enthusiasm of the instructors elevated the (virtual) classroom environment.

The curriculum was phenomenal. I was able to easily follow along each section in the website and accomplish what was being taught.

I think being able to work through problem sets with a partner in the break rooms and being able to troubleshoot what my misunderstandings from the readings were was very helpful.

The mix between homework readings, in class examples, and breakout rooms was AMAZING. Such a great way to get hands-on practicing the material. I also appreciated working on exercises in partners. I had no coding experience and I found that most of my partners had taken at least one programming class, so working with them helped me pick things up quicker. ALSO the TA's were so kind and helpful in the breakout rooms!

Learning how an actual workflow is and understanding basic concepts of R

Solid explanations of the readings, group work helped quite a bit.

The course materials and exercises were great.

Flipped classroom set-up combined with the awesome course website

I thought the breaking down of homework exercises through Screen Share on Zoom was the most helpful in understanding the material.

Working through code as a group and in small groups. Hearing it explained along with the purpose of using certain functions.

The flipped classroom - I liked doing the readings outside of class and the exercises in class.

One thing that really worked was drawing out the boxes - my background in programming is very limited, but I am familiar with deductive logic. That visual presentation helped me connect programming in R to my past experience with logic.

I enjoyed the efficiency of the website. The curriculum was well designed as each lesson built on the previous one.

Honestly when I saw you (Nick) do the coding yourself helped me a lot. I enjoyed doing exercises with partners and going into break out rooms.

explanations and the readings and exercises on the website

What is one thing that went well in the class and contributed to your learn...

I feel function and loop are quite useful for my further study.

Basic understanding of how to use R with data. Also practical problems using the theory we learned about R and various functions. Liked real data applications

Breakout rooms were extremely helpful.

Q4 - What is one thing you think could have been improved to help your learning?

What is one thing you think could have been improved to help your learning?

Because the first day of class was so easy, I didn't think I would have to work very hard. Therefore, I was unprepared for the rigor of the second day of class. I took extra time after that to make sure I was prepared for the third class, but it seemed like some students never recovered from the precedent set during that first class. I think moving vectors to class #1 could create a better balance.

I didn't feel that there was anything missing from the course, but any additional reading or tutorials for R linked in the slack chat would of course be helpful even if they were just optional reading.

More box diagrams. Perhaps a nested tree of some sort to explain the order of operations for index and subsetting. I think a key of function terms for ones they mat will be encountered regularly would be very helpful.

I think it would be better if Nick or TAs could have had time to walk us through the home & in -class exercises.

How to introduce and explain the contents.

As a complete beginner, I felt the course moved a little quickly (though, it's par for the course given it was a five day boot camp). Still, I would've appreciated more live examples (as what was done the final two sessions) where, as a class, we could work through the exercises.

It would have been nice to go deeper with plotting and data analysis. I understand ETL processes and data cleanup are foundational to any analysis with r. I also recognize that we had less than a week of learning. However, if there was more curriculum on plotting/data visualization, and it was written out to the level of detail as loops/formulas/vectors/df/matrices, I would have immediately dove into it following the course.

I think the Bootcamp over the course of 5 days did an excellent job introducing me in a more hands-on way to the fundamentals in R. I appreciate Nick's willingness to adapt to the needs of the class as we processed.

I think I should have blocked off more time on my calendar not just for class discussions but for working through exercises on my own in the 'off-hours'. It was difficult for me to find enough time to do the readings and practice problems each day while moving/preparing for my program/etc. Also, I felt like I learned even more in later classes when my classmates started asking more questions.

In-person combines with Zoom

More "work along with me" style learning. As someone with almost no programming knowledge and minimal computer skills, the individual assignments were a bit lengthy to get through. A lot of "did I load this/install this correctly" etc. Being able to work at the same time along with you would have been nice.

Homework assignments should've been a thing where we needed to turn in problem sets to ensure people came prepared. Also, a more structured class with a demo and explanations at first and then breaking down into pairs/groups to work on exercises. Randomly distributing people into breakout rooms might have saved time too as opposed to having to find your assigned partner. I would recommend making the first session less light as it poorly set up expectations for the rest of the course. I wouldn't have minded covering Vectors in the first class and spending more time on matrices and data frames in the second class. I think I might have preferred downloading some real data from the `get go` too.

I understand and agree with the ethos that all questions have value. That said, I did find occasionally we got in the weeds with specific questions that were only relevant to a small group of people. I am unsure how to balance these two thoughts effectively. I guess I would encourage you to move on if in these situations.

If there could be an option to work on class exercises by oneself in a breakout room, that would be great. I understand that it is more efficient to have groups of twos and threes and work with peers to go over concepts one may not have grasped initially. However, it can also have the opposite effect and leave some students anxious and/or have performance anxiety.

I think the tools provided were great! Some of the language used in the readings was hard to understand as a beginner in data science.

What is one thing you think could have been improved to help your learning?

Videos!!!! I think some of the readings would have really benefited from videos (of a shared screen in RStudio) to show what writing/running the code in each of the readings looks like.

Probably just more time. Instead of summer "math camp" it probably would have been better to have a 1-2 month long R camp.

The synchronous portion of the class felt ineffective at times. However, when we were working in groups, I felt like I learned the most out of any portion of the class.

I can't think of anything. Everything that has improved throughout the class was very helpful.

more time, longer bootcamp, maybe more structure

I'll appreciate if you can give us more examples.

"I do, we do, you do" structure of class rather than completely flipped. First 1/3 of class: professor models Second 1/3: pair/group work with back and forth w/TAs, professor Last 1/3: individual work submitted for feedback for next class

The experience was very helpful.

Q5 - Overall, did you find this Bootcamp to be worthwhile/valuable?

Overall, did you find this Bootcamp to be worthwhile/valuable?

Absolutely.

Yes, I feel that I will have significant advance knowledge of skills using R that I may have to use in my classes and research.

Yes absolutely. I was terrified of what I might wcou tet in ENVIRON 710, now I feel prepared.

It was very helpful for me.

Yes

Yes—though I still feel like I have an extremely basic skillset regarding R, I have at least been exposed to coding/programming.

Absolutely!

The Bootcamp did not only serve as an introduction to R for me but it improved my confidence in R. I am now more confident in my ability to work through problem sets and to carry out troubleshooting techniques. I am more comfortable with my level of familiarity with R.

YES! this was amazing exposure to R and 'coding' that I had never used before. I feel much more comfortable jumping into data analysis assistantships at the nic school. I'm also so glad I have a foundation/understanding of what computational science IS and what kind of cool things you can do with large datasets. I think this course will be SO helpful when working on large data projects with MEM professors and in MEM classes in the future. I think this bootcamp is something that all MEM's would really benefit from. Computational Data Science is only going to get more and more important in the future and gaining these basic skills in R and understanding of how code 'runs' is critical for new MEM's entering the field.

Yes of course

Extremely.

Yes, I did. The only thing that didn't meet my expectations is that I was hoping for some more applied exercises with actual real-world examples.

The cm4ss bootcamp was extremely valuable, In five days my skill in and understanding of R increased dramatically. In the epoch of big data I would highly recommend it to incoming MEM students.

Very worthwhile. The classwork was easily accessible online and presented in a style that broke down the detail of coding in R and visually-learner-friendly style. The instructor was very accessible through Slack and Zoom, and answered student questions, took notes, and was open to criticism, feedback, and suggestions.

Yes! Very valuable and I'm certain it will help in my upcoming semester.

Yes! I wish it had been longer. The Pol Sci PhD students took a 10 week math camp over the summer (with readings, videos, and problem sets for each week) and I wish the R BootCamp could have been as extensive!!

Yes.

Absolutely, I am beyond thrilled with my experience with the camp. I wish my undergrad had something similar to this.

Yes extremely! It really felt like a bootcamp but I feel more comfortable with R even though I'm not 100% confident but it's better than 0%!

Overall, did you find this Bootcamp to be worthwhile/valuable?

yes! thank you so much

Yes, I think it is quite valuable!

Yes very helpful to get some exposure before methods courses!

Yes.

Q6 - Anything else you want to share?

Anything else you want to share?

In general, the notes were fantastic. Sometimes it was hard to follow the flow of examples when one row of code could only be understood in the context of code located half way up the page. Each reading covered a range of new skills, leaving my mind oversaturated by the time I reached the problem set at the bottom of the page. It would be nice to have application prompts throughout the each lesson to reinforce new skills. This could be as simple as "This line of code subset for column x. How would you rewrite it to sort for column y?"

No.

Nick is an incredibly patient and caring instructor and made me feel very welcome and normal for not knowing as much as I thought I would have too.

I think it would've been helpful to have more examples pertaining to our disciplines in order to understand where these methods really fit in. I study institutions and democratization, and I still don't really understand the connection between these topics and coding. Obviously, providing targeted examples was next to impossible given that CM4SS students came from all sorts of disciplines, but perhaps it could be useful to hold specific boot camps for specific programs to circumvent this.

Nope, thank you for arranging such a digestible r bootcamp.

I was really nervous to take this class since my only data analysis experience was with excel. However, in the class description it said no 'coding' background was necessary which gave me confidence to sign up. I think the professor did a great job making the material accessible to us 'non-coders'. However, it was a LOT of material to learn in such a short amount of time, especially when starting from a 'zero' knowledge base.

Nick is great! Hope to get more support from him in the future

Nothing! Great course, thanks for hosting it!

Thank you, Nick!!

Great experience. I appreciate all the work that went into creating the website and the lessons. Your teaching style and willingness to share your time are inspiring. I would be interested participating in a 2nd year data science bootcamps for MEM or social science.

Thank you so much for doing this bootcamp and being flexible and patient with all of us!

Thank you to Nick, Yi, and Zoe for running an amazing class!

Thank you so much for everything Nick! I'm grateful.

I like that there's time for us to ask questions but I didn't like that it took the entire class time for two days, maybe just 10-15 minutes at the beginning dedicated to that and then people can stay after class if they choose. But the first few classes where we were working through exercises together in breakout rooms was most useful for me. Thanks!

Thank you! Readings were very helpful

End of Report

