

Evaluation report Stochastic Models in Operations Management

191530881

dr. ir. L.L.M. van der Wegen

The evaluation committee has evaluated the course Stochastic Models in Operations Management by handing out a paper questionnaire. 15 students filled in the questionnaire, whereas 63 students were subscribed to the course. A response percentage cannot be given, as many of the students subscribed to the course did not actively attend the course, according to the lecturer.

In general, the grades given for this course are good. The overall appreciation of the course is graded high, as well as the relevance for the academic development. Students also think the course is interesting. Very high grades are given for the aspects concerning the information given about the course, availability of the teacher for questions and the organization of lectures. Aspects given for the quality of education, namely the quality of the lectures, use of whiteboard and sheets and the quality of the written study material are graded well. The suitability of the course for self-study scores sufficiently. Finally, the students seem to be well informed about the requirements for the exam.

About half of the students attending this course study IEM, the other half is following a master in Mechanical Engineering. One student was doing the ATLAS programme. Almost all students thought the scheduled time for this course was sufficient and the majority was also happy with the tempo of the lectures. Compliments are given to the support the teacher gave during the tutorials. One student suggested that the teacher should give more examples that are not covered in the book, so students have more examples about how to apply the taught knowledge. Finally, a couple of remarks are given about the suitability for self-study. Students feel like the course is near impossible to pass without attending the lectures.

Although some minor details can be improved, this course is generally very good.

These are the main conclusions of the evaluation. The interpretation is based on the remarks of the respondents. For an overview of the results, see the graph at the end of this report.

Recommendations of previous evaluation

No previous report was found. It is therefore not possible to state the recommendations of the last evaluation.

Recommendations by the committee

The quality of the course can be improved. Based on the results of the questionnaire, some recommendations for improvement are provided. The most important recommendations are:

- Make the course more suitable for self-study.

Response lecturer

- Before TOM was introduced SMOM was a bachelor course for both TBK and TW students (and it also was a master course for ME). Most of the 63 students that enrolled for the course were “old” bachelor students. They did not show up at the lectures at all. About 20 students attended the lectures and tutorials regularly. So, the response rate is about 75%.
- Unfortunately, the point about making the course more suitable for self-study is not completely clear to me. When I look at the graph, then it is clear that the study material covers the subjects sufficiently and that the quality of the material is good. This seems to contradict the relative low score on suitability for self-study. Moreover, after the tutorials the solutions of all the problems are available on Bb. (I normally would not do that for a master course, but the bachelor students got the solutions last year, and I wanted to level the playing field for all students.) I have to think about this issue. The only explanation that comes to mind at this moment is that students find the topics difficult and need the extra explanation during the lectures and tutorials. I am not sure whether that should be seen as a disadvantage for a master course.

Overview

- All marks are given on a Likert-scale from 1-5. For master courses, a mark of 3.5 or higher is sufficient.
- The height of the bars in the graph represents the mark. The thin line at the top of the bars gives the standard deviation.

Explanation of marks

- Total ‘first impression rating’ is the mark given to the question: Overall appreciation.
- Ability to study is the average point of the marks given to the part of study material.
- Relevancy is the mark given to the question: Relevancy of the course.
- Quality of education is the average point of the marks given to the parts “lectures” and “practices”.
- Coordination / Planning is the average point of the marks of “Adequate Information on Blackboard” and “Teacher available for questions”.
- Examination / Assignments is the average point of the marks given to the Examination /Final Assignment part.
- Average is the mean of all given marks.

Marks	
First impression rating	3.9
Ability to study	3.9
Relevance	3.9
Quality of education	4.2
Coordination / planning	4.4
Examination / Assignments	4.3
Average	4.1

