

Hinson Chan

Hinson Chan's first tutoring experience was in Quantitative Methods 1 in 2005 where he used 'real-world' examples to deliver statistical concepts and to demonstrate the value of statistics. His aim was not only to foster problem-based learning within his tutorials, but also to encourage students to socialise, make friends, and to enjoy their university experience. Hinson has more recently been given the opportunity to teach Quantitative Methods 2.

I believe the best learning environment is one where students can communicate freely and comfortably with the tutor and other students. If students are unafraid to speak up, then the tutorial will be a productive one. This has been the philosophy I have employed since my very first tutorial, and the results have been rewarding, for both the students and myself.

Despite having a positive learning environment, there will always be challenges and obstacles. One of my biggest challenges was to consistently deliver accurate information in my tutorials. I remember in my first few tutorials, I would get nervous while explaining answers because I was afraid of making mistakes. Even more nerve-racking was the fact that the students wrote down everything I put on the board - as if they were lottery numbers for full marks in the exam.

I soon realised that making mistakes isn't all that disastrous. Nine times out of ten, a student would identify the mistake, ask a question and then I would say "Hey you're absolutely right. I did make a mistake here, thank you for pointing that out to me".

I usually spent at least half an hour preparing for each tutorial by going through the questions and answers, noting down important concepts to emphasise and questions to ask, and then going through the materials again until I was feeling confident the tutorial was going to be a good one.

If you have done the subject before, a good resource to refer to is your own notes or textbook. There is really no reason to worry, as other tutors and the lecturer-in-charge are there to help you all the time.

I'm not sure what is meant by being a 'successful' tutor, but if you are confident, enthusiastic, prepared and responsible, then I'm sure you will be a wonderful tutor and the students will thank you for it.