

Stony Brook University – Applied Mathematics and Statistics Program in Quantitative Finance Student Background Survey – Financial Derivatives I – Fall 2004

Date: September 29, 2004
Class: AMS 691-03 - Financial Derivatives I
 Prof. Robert J. Frey
Responses: 12

The survey of student backgrounds was given at the third class and returned at its end. Half of the responses were returned with comments. The choices for each subject area were:

- a. No background at all.
- b. Some background, but haven't taken a full course.
- c. Have taken a course, but not strong in the area.
- d. Have taken a course and feel comfortable in the area.
- e. Very comfortable; have taken a course and used the material other courses.

Distributions:

1. Linear Algebra
 - a. |
 - b. |
 - c. |
 - d. |XXXX
 - e. |XXXXXXXXXX
2. Multivariate Calculus
 - a. |
 - b. |
 - c. |
 - d. |XXXXXX
 - e. |XXXXXXXXXX
3. Differential Equations
 - a. |
 - b. |X
 - c. |XXX
 - d. |XX
 - e. |XXXXXXXX
4. Probability Theory
 - a. |
 - b. |
 - c. |XX
 - d. |XXXXXXXXXX
 - e. |XXX
5. Statistics
 - a. |
 - b. |XXX
 - c. |X
 - d. |XXXXXX
 - e. |XXX
6. Finance and Economics
 - a. |X
 - b. |XXX
 - c. |XX
 - d. |XXXX
 - e. |XX

Summary of Comments: (slightly paraphrased; usually to make them a little less polite)

- Book doesn't give enough examples. Doing a lot of problems is important. Would like to see how the subject is applied in real world settings.
- More introduction to financial terms in the beginning. You can't do enough examples. Want to hear more real world experience in context.
- Post class notes on website before, not after, class.
- Slow down; you talk too fast.
- Two individuals mentioned that they were very comfortable with the course.