

BRENT J. EVANS

Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
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Nashville, TN 37203
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ACADEMIC POSITION

Vanderbilt University – July 2013 - Present
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Higher Education

EDUCATION

Stanford University – Ph.D., 2013
Administration and Policy Analysis: Higher Education
Certificate in Quantitative Research Methods

Stanford University – M.A., 2012
Economics

Harvard University – M.Ed., 2006
Higher Education

University of Virginia – B.A. with Distinction, 2002
Physics and American Government

AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

AERA Outstanding Reviewer Award for *Educational Researcher*, 2018
#1 Most Read Education Research Article, AERA, 2017 (Understanding loan aversion in education, *AERA Open*)
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization Outstanding Contribution in Reviewing, 2015
Emerging Education Policy Scholar, AEI & Fordham Institute, 2013-2014
Institute of Education Sciences Fellowship, Stanford University, 2009-2013
AERA Outstanding Reviewer Award for *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 2012
Educational Leadership Scholarship, Harvard University, 2005-2006
Lawn Resident, University of Virginia, 2001-2002
Echols Scholar, University of Virginia, 1998-2002

RESEARCH GRANTS & EXTERNAL FUNDING

An Analysis of the Relationship between Loan Aversion and Actual Borrowing Behavior among High School and College Students (with Angela Boatman). \$10,000. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. 2017-2018.

Understanding and Reducing Loan Aversion among High School and Adult Students: An Experimental Analysis (with Angela Boatman). \$316,600. Lumina Foundation. 2014-2016.

Evaluating and Improving Developmental Education at Harper College (with Angela Boatman, Will Doyle, Stella Flores, and Gary Henry). \$10,000. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. 2014-2015.

Beyond Triage: A Randomized Experiment in Sustained Pre-College Advising (with Eric Bettinger and Anthony Antonio). \$1,705,221. Institute of Education Sciences. 2013-2019.

Exploring New Models of Student Financial Support, Series 2: Exploring Models of Passive Student Loan Repayment Systems (with Angela Boatman and Adela Soliz). \$75,000. Lumina Foundation. 2013-2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Note: * Denotes graduate student coauthor

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

*Fesler, L., Dee, T.S., Baker, R., & Evans, B.J. (2019). Text as data methods for education researchers and applications for gender equity. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 12, 707-727.

Evans, B.J. & Boatman, A. (2019). Understanding how information affects loan aversion: A randomized control trial of providing federal loan information to high school seniors. *Journal of Higher Education*, 90, 800-832.

*Nguyen, T.D., *Kramer, J.W. & Evans, B.J. (2019). The Effects of Grant Aid on Student Persistence and Degree Attainment: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Causal Evidence. *Review of Educational Research*, 89, 831-874.

Bettinger, E.P. & Evans, B.J. (2019). College guidance for all: A randomized experiment in pre-college advising. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 38, 579-599.

Evans, B.J. (2019). How do college students use Advanced Placement credit? *American Educational Research Journal*, 56, 925-954.

Baker, R.B., Evans, B.J., *Li, Q., & *Cung, B. (2019). Does inducing students to schedule lecture watching in online classes improve their academic performance? An experimental analysis of a time management intervention. *Research in Higher Education*, 60, 521-552.

Evans, B.J., Boatman, A., & Soliz, A.R. (2019). Framing and labeling effects in preferences for borrowing for college: An experimental analysis. *Research in Higher Education*, 60, 438-457.

- Evans, B.J., & *Nguyen, T. (2019). Monetary substitution of loans, earnings, and need-based aid in postsecondary education: The impact of Pell Grant eligibility. *Economics of Education Review*, 70, 1-19.
- Evans, B.J., *Marsicano, C.R., & *Lennartz, C. (2019). Cracks in the bedrock of American democracy: Differences in civic engagement across institutions of higher education. *Educational Researcher*, 48, 31-44.
- Evans, B.J. & *Nguyen, T.D., Tener, B., & Thomas, C. (2017). Federal Pell Grant eligibility and receipt: Explaining nonreceipt and changes to EFC using national and institutional data. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 47 (3): 45-69.
- Evans, B.J. (2017). SMART Money: Do financial incentives encourage college students to study science? *Education, Finance, & Policy* 12 (3): 342-368.
- Boatman, A. & Evans, B.J. (2017). How financial literacy, federal aid knowledge, and credit market experience predict loan aversion for education. *The Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science* 671 (1): 49-68.
- Boatman, A., Evans, B.J., & Soliz, A.R. (2017). Understanding loan aversion in education: Evidence from high school seniors, community college students, and adults. *AERA Open* 3 (1): 1-16.
- Moneta-Koehler, L., Brown, A.M., Petrie, K.A., Evans, B.J., & Chalkley, R. (2017). The Limitations of the GRE in Predicting Success in Biomedical Graduate School. *PLoS ONE* 12 (1): e0166742.
- Baker, R.B., Evans, B.J. & Dee, T.S. (2016). A randomized experiment testing the efficacy of a scheduling nudge in a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). *AERA Open* 2 (4): 1-18.
- Evans, B.J., Baker, R.B., & Dee, T.S. (2016). Persistence patterns in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). *Journal of Higher Education* 87 (2): 206-242.
- Bettinger, E.P., Evans, B.J., & Pope, D.G. (2013). Improving college performance and retention the easy way: Unpacking the ACT exam. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 5 (2): 26-52.
- Evans, B.J. & Willinsky, J. (2013). Setting aside the course reader: The legal, economic, and pedagogical reasons. *Innovative Higher Education* 38 (5): 341-354.

Papers Published in Conference Proceedings

- Ye, C., Kinnebrew, J.S., Biswas, G., Evans, B.J., Fisher, D.H., Narasimham, G., & *Brady, K.A. (2015). Behavior Prediction in MOOCs using Higher Granularity Temporal Information. *Learning @ Scale 2015 Annual Conference Proceedings*, 335-338.

Baker, R., Evans, B., Greenberg, G. & Dee, T. (2014). Understanding persistence in MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses): Descriptive and Experimental Evidence. Proceedings of the European MOOCs Stakeholders Summit, 5-11.

Book Chapters in Edited Volumes

Evans, B.J. & Baker, R.B. (2016). MOOCs and persistence: Definitions and predictors. *New Directions for Institutional Research*, 167: 69-85.

Evans, B.J. (2015). College admission testing: An Ohio perspective. In V. Stead (Ed.), *International Perspectives on Higher Education Admission Policy: A reader* (pp.171-180). New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

Hornig, E.L., Evans, B.J., Antonio, A.L., Foster, J.D., *Kalamkarian, H.S., Hurd, N.F., & Bettinger, E.P. (2013). Lessons learned from a data-driven college access program: The National College Advising Corps. *New Directions for Youth Development: Innovations in Improving Access to Higher Education* 140 (Winter): 55-75.

Published Reports

Boatman, A., Evans, B. & Soliz, A. (2014). Applying the lessons of behavioral economics to improve the federal student loan programs: Six policy recommendations. Indianapolis, IN: Lumina Foundation.

Articles under Review

Baker, R.B., Dee, T.S, Evans, B.J., & Johns, J. Bias and homophily in online classes: Evidence from a field experiment.

*Bennett, C., Evans, B.J., & *Marsicano, C.R. Taken for granted? Effects of loan reduction initiatives on student borrowing, Pell Grant recipient enrollment, and application behaviors.

*Rivas, M., Baker, R., & Evans, B.J. Will a MOOC get you hired? An experimental analysis of the value of MOOCs relative to professional experience and traditional higher education credentials.

Invited Handbook Chapter – In Progress

Evans, B.J. Experiments in Higher Education. Higher education: Handbook of theory and research.

Working Papers

Boatman, A., Callender, C., & Evans, B.J. Do borrowing attitudes for higher education predict college enrollment intentions? Comparing English and American high school students.

Evans, B.J. & Henry, G.T. Self-paced remediation and math placement: A randomized field experiment in a community college.

Evans, B.J. & *Nguyen, T.D. The effects of grant aid on social and academic integration in higher education.

Professional Reports

Bettinger, E.P., Antonio, A.L., Foster, J., & Evans, B.J. (2011). National College Advising Corps: 2009-2010 Evaluation Report. Chapel Hill, NC: National College Advising Corps.

Bettinger, E.P., Antonio, A.L., Evans, B.J., Foster, J., Holzman, B., & Horng, E. (2012). National College Advising Corps: 2010-2011 Evaluation Report. Chapel Hill, NC: National College Advising Corps.

Bettinger, E.P., Antonio, A.L., Evans, B.J., Foster, J., Holzman, B., Santikian, H., & Horng, E. (2013). National College Advising Corps: 2011-2012 Evaluation Report. Chapel Hill, NC: National College Advising Corps.

Bettinger, E.P., Antonio, A.L., Evans, B., Foster, J., Gilkes, T., Horng, E., & Kijima, R. (2014). College Advising Corps 2013-2014 evaluation report: Case study analysis. Chapel Hill, NC: National College Advising Corps.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

Loan aversion in education: What we know and what remains to be learned. Invited speaker at the Urban Institute. November 2019.

Loan aversion and rising student debt. Invited speaker at SEAGAP (Southeastern Association for Graduate Enrollment Managers) Summer Regional Conference. July 2019.

College guidance for all: A randomized experiment in pre-college advising. Invited speaker at North Carolina State University. April 2018.

Can information affect loan averse attitudes? An RCT of high school seniors. Invited speaker at the Stanford Graduate School of Education Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford, CA. February 2018.

How students use AP credit in college. Invited guest at the College Board's Advanced Placement Symposium, Philadelphia, PA. November 2017.

Loan aversion in education: What we know and what remains to be learned. Invited speaker at the City University of New York. April 2017.

Self-paced remediation and math placement: A randomized field experiment in a community college. Invited speaker at the University of California – Irvine School of Education, Irvine, CA. October 2015.

How students use AP credit in college. Invited guest at the College Board’s Academic Roundtable and Tour of AP Readings, Salt Lake City, UT. June 2015.

Self-paced remediation and math placement: A randomized field experiment in a community college. Invited speaker at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville Department of Economics brownbag lunch seminar, Knoxville, TN. April 2015

How students use AP credit in college: Updates and extensions. Invited guest at the College Board Advanced Placement Higher Education Advisory Committee Meeting, New York, NY. November 2014.

Assessing recruitment and yield activities in the admission process. Invited presenter at the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals annual admission institute, Portland, OR. July 2014.

Validity of assessments in the admission process. Invited presenter at the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals annual admission institute, Portland, OR. July 2014.

Digital distance learning. Invited presenter at the Peabody Professional Institute, Nashville, TN. June 2014.

Applying the lessons of behavioral economics to improve the federal student loan programs: Six policy recommendations. (With A. Boatman & A. Soliz). Invited paper series author at the Lumina Ideas Summit: New Models of Student Financial Support, Washington DC. April 2014.

How students use AP credit in college. Invited guest at the College Board Advanced Placement Higher Education Advisory Committee Meeting, New York, NY. April 2014.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations & Posters

Language and gender equity in online classrooms. (With L. Fesler, T. Dee, & R. Baker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Toronto, Canada. April 2019.

Will a MOOC get you hired? A randomized controlled trial testing perceptions of educational credentials on hiring. (With M. Rivas & R. Baker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Toronto, Canada. April 2019.

Taken for granted? Causal effects of loan-reduction initiatives on application behaviors, student borrowing, and campus diversity. (With C. Bennett & C. Marsicano). Paper presented at

the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Toronto, Canada. April 2019.

Do loan averse attitudes predict college borrowing decisions and enrollment behaviors? (With A. Boatman). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Kansas City, MO. March 2019.

Taken for granted? Causal effects of loan-reduction initiatives on application behaviors, student borrowing, and campus diversity. (With C. Bennett & C. Marsicano). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Kansas City, MO. March 2019.

The effects of grant aid on social and academic integration in higher education. (With T. Nguyen). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association. New York, NY. April 2018.

The effects of MOOC certificates on hireability: An experiment. (With M. Rivas & R. Baker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR. March 2018.

The effects of financial aid on student persistence and degree attainment: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the causal evidence. (With T. Nguyen & J. Kramer). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR. March 2018.

Improving academic outcomes through time management: A randomized control trial of a scheduling intervention to improve performance in online postsecondary courses. (With B. Cung, Q. Li, & R. Baker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR. March 2018.

Language and gender equity in online classrooms. (With L. Fesler, T. Dee, & R. Baker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR. March 2018.

The effects of a scheduling intervention on student performance in online postsecondary education. (With R. Baker, Q. Li, & B. Cung). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management. Chicago, IL. November 2017.

Monetary substitution of loans, earnings, and need-based aid in postsecondary education: The impact of Pell Grant eligibility. (With T. Nguyen). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association. San Antonio, TX. April 2017.

Nudging students to better academic outcomes: A randomized control trial of a scheduling intervention to improve persistence and performance in online postsecondary courses (With R. Baker, Q. Li, & B. Cung). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC. March 2017.

Understanding how information affects loan aversion: A randomized control trial of providing federal loan information to high school seniors. (With A. Boatman). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management. Washington, DC. November 2016.

The limitations of the GRE in predicting success in biomedical graduate school. (With L. Moneta-Koehler, A. Brown, K. Petrie, & R. Chalkley). Poster presented at the 2016 meeting of Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Graduate Research, Education, and Training (GREAT) Professional Development Meeting. Chicago, IL. September 2016.

The impact of Pell Grant eligibility on college persistence: An application of regression discontinuity design. (With T. Nguyen). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Education Finance and Policy. Denver, CO. March 2016.

Self-paced remediation and math placement: A randomized field experiment in a community college. (With G. Henry). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Education Finance and Policy. Denver, CO. March 2016.

Bias in online classes: Evidence from a field experiment. (With T. Dee, R. Baker, & J. Johns). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association, San Francisco, CA. January 2016.

Understanding loan aversion. (With A. Boatman & A. Soliz). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Miami, FL. November 2015.

Bias in online classes: Evidence from a field experiment. (With T. Dee, R. Baker, & J. Johns). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Miami, FL. November 2015.

Contrast in the crucible moment: Differences in mission, structure, and activities in college civic engagement. (With C. Marsicano & C. Lennartz). Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO. November 2015.

Exploring differences in civic engagement structures and activities across institutions of higher education. (With C. Marsicano & C. Lennartz). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL. April 2015.

Behavior prediction in MOOCs using higher granularity temporal information. (With C. Ye, J.S. Kinnebrew, G. Biswas, D.H Fisher, G. Narasimham, & K.A. Brady). Work in Progress Poster presented at the Learning @ Scale Annual Conference. Vancouver, BC. March 2015.

- Does discrimination exist in online education? Experimental evidence from Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). (With T. Dee, R. Baker, & J. Johns). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. Washington, DC. March 2015.
- Self-paced remediation and math placement: A randomized field experiment in a community college. (With G. Henry). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. Washington, DC. March 2015.
- Does discrimination exist in online education? Experimental evidence from Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). (With T. Dee, R. Baker, & J. Johns). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC. March 2015.
- Information and assistance in the college enrollment process: Evidence from a randomized field experiment in near-peer college advising. (With E. Bettinger). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC. March 2015.
- How do college students use advanced placement credit? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Albuquerque, NM. November 2014.
- Applying the lessons of behavioral economics to improve the federal student loan programs: Six policy recommendations. (With A. Boatman & A. Soliz). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Student Financial Aid Research Network, Providence, RI. June 2014.
- Persistence patterns in MOOCs. (With R. Baker, T. Dee, & E. Greenberg). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA. April 2014.
- Understanding persistence in MOOCs: Descriptive and experimental evidence. (With R. Baker, T. Dee, & E. Greenberg). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO. November 2013.
- International perspectives on higher education admissions: Theory, policy, and praxis from Canada, Georgia, Russia, and the United States. College Admission Testing in America. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO. November 2013.
- How do college students use advanced placement credit? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO. November 2013.
- An experimental analysis of the effect of near-peer college advising on high school seniors. Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, New Orleans. March 2013.

Are high achieving college students slackers? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Las Vegas, NV. November 2012.

College advisement in high school: Evidence from a randomized experiment. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Tampa, FL. October 2012.

SMART Money: Do financial incentives encourage college students to study science? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver. April 2012.

SMART Money: Do financial incentives encourage college students to study science? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Boston. March 2012.

SMART Money: Do financial incentives encourage college students to study science? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington DC. March 2012.

Investigating the use and predictive validity of ACT scores. Poster presented at the Institute for Education Sciences Conference, Washington DC. June 2010.

Other Presentations

Post-secondary leadership teams: A strategic collaboration to increase college-going in low-income high schools. (With T. Nave & K. Tejan). Presentation at the College Board Forum, New York. October 2011.

If the college fits, wear it: The college search process. (With N. Hurd & S. Thompson). Presentation at the College Board Forum, Washington DC. October 2010.

Near peer recruiting: Increasing access by incorporating students and recent graduates in the admission process. (With N. Hurd). Presentation at the European Access Network Conference, Stockholm. June 2010.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

HEA 6110/7500 Introduction to Enrollment Management. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020. Master's level course on admission, financial aid, and retention efforts from an institutional perspective.

HLP 9500 Enrollment Management. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University 2015, 2016, 2017. Ed.D. course module on admission, financial aid, and retention efforts from an institutional perspective.

HOD 2260 Economics of Human Resources. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019. Introductory undergraduate course on microeconomic principles applied to personnel and human resources.

ISL 6150 Systematic Inquiry in Independent Schools, 2015, 2016, 2017. Master's level course module on social science research methods and quantitative data analysis as applied in education.

LLO 9110 Economics of Human Resources. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. 2020. Developed and taught doctoral level course for the online Leadership and Learning in Organizations program.

LPO 7860 Research Design and Data Analysis. Peabody College, Vanderbilt University 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. Master's level course in social science research methods and quantitative data analysis.

CURRENT ADVISING

Amanda Addison

PhD Student in Higher Education, Department of Leadership, Policy, & Organizations, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

FORMER ADVISING

Christopher Marsicano

Visiting Professor, Davidson College

Tuan Nguyen

Assistant Professor, College of Education, Kansas State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Boards

Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

Journal of Higher Education

Research in Higher Education

Peer Reviewer of Journal Articles

AERA Open

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy

American Education Research Journal

Community College Review

Computers and Education

Economics of Education Review

Education Economics

Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

Education Finance and Policy

Educational Policy
Educational Researcher
Harvard Undergraduate Research Journal
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization
Journal of Higher Education
Journal of Human Capital
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management
Journal of Public Economics
Research in Higher Education
Social Science Quarterly
Sociology of Education

Technical Review Boards

National Center for Education Statistics: Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study 08/18

Conference Paper Reviewer

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Spring 2014 Conference
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Spring 2015 Conference
Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) Spring 2017 Conference

University Service

Provost's Women's Initiative Pay Equity Sub-committee Member
LPO Ad hoc Math/Quantitative Requirements for HOD Majors Committee
LPO PhD Admission
LPO Senior Faculty Search Committee
LPO Ad hoc Teaching Observation Committee
LPO HEA Master's Admission

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
American Economic Association (AEA)
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)