

# Madison Dell

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## Research Areas

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Quantitative education policy; economics of education; experimental and quasi-experimental methods; postsecondary access, persistence, and success; vocational education and training.

## Employment

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<b>Postdoctoral Researcher</b> , University of Zurich Swiss Leading House: Economics of Education, Firm Behavior, and Training Policies	2025–
<b>Sr. Director for Strategic Research Initiatives</b> , Tennessee Board of Regents	2022–25
<b>Research Analyst</b> , Tennessee Higher Education Commission	2016–19

## Education

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<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>Economics of Education</b> , Stanford University <i>Dissertation</i> : “Unlocking opportunity, advancing equity: Improving college outcomes for marginalized students” (available <a href="#">here</a> ) <i>Committee</i> : Eric Bettinger (Chair), Thomas S. Dee, Anthony Lising Antonio, Alvin Pearman	2023
<b>M.A.</b>	<b>Economics</b> , Stanford University	2022
<b>M.A.</b>	<b>Higher Education Administration</b> , Louisiana State University	2015
<b>B.I.S.</b>	<b>Integrated Studies</b> , University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	2014

## Publications

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### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Domingue, B. W., **Dell, M.**, Lang, D., Silverman, R., Yeatman, J., & Hough, H. (2022). The effect of COVID on oral reading fluency during the 2020–2021 academic year. *AERA Open*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584221120254>.
- Collier, D. A., Fitzpatrick, D., **Dell, M.**, Snideman, S. S., Marsicano, C. R., Kelchen, R., & Wells, K. E. (2022). We want you back: Uncovering the influences on in-person instructional operations in fall 2020. *Research in Higher Education*, 63(5), 741–767. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-021-09665-5>.
- Lee, J. L., **Dell, M.**, González Canché, M. S., Monday, A., & Klafehn, A. (2021). The hidden costs of corroboration: Estimating the effects of financial aid verification on college enrollment. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 43(2), 233–252. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0162373721989304>.

### Book Chapter

- House, E. A. & **Dell, M.** (2020). Keeping the promise: Early outcomes of Tennessee’s tuition-free college initiative. In L. W. Perna & E. J. Smith (Eds.), *Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs* (pp. 151–172). AERA. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvxw3phv.10>.

## Research and Policy Reports

Feygin, A., Miller, T., Bettinger, E., & **Dell, M.** (2022). *Advising for college success: A systematic review of the evidence*. College Completion Network. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED626933>.

**Dell, M.** (2021). *State authorization research: Findings, themes, and future directions*. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. Report available [here](#).

**Dell, M.**, Lee, J., & Weeden, D. (2021). *Investigating factors associated with college openings and closures: The role of state authorization policies*. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. Paper available [here](#).

## Working Papers

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Matheny, K. T., **Dell, M.**, Gluek, G., Baker, R., Bettinger, E., Monday, A., & Mesa, H. (2025). Fast track to success? A mixed methods evaluation of condensed course formats at Tennessee community colleges. <https://edworkingpapers.com/ai26-1346>. *Revise and resubmit, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

**Dell, M.**, Lehnert, P., Backes-Gellner, U., & Bettinger, E. (2024). The effect of postsecondary educational institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w32679>. *Under review*.

**Dell, M.**, Brox, E., Palffy, P., Schilter, C., & Backes-Gellner, U. (2026). Choice architecture in occupational choices. <https://ideas.repec.org/p/iso/educat/0255.html>.

**Dell, M.** & Monday, A. (2026). Unequal and persistent effects of student loan policy: Evidence from Parent PLUS reforms. <https://edworkingpapers.com/ai26-1483>.

## Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

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### Grant

Fast track to success? A mixed methods evaluation of condensed course formats 2022–24  
Funder: Ascendium Education Group, Co-PI, \$734,300

### Fellowships

[Stanford Graduate Fellowship in Science and Engineering \(VPGE\)](#) 2021–24  
~50,000/year for 3 years (*Forfeited after securing full-time employment in 2022.*)

[Doctoral Training Program, Quantitative Education Policy Analysis \(IES\)](#) 2019–21  
~30,000/year for 2 years

### Honors

[AEI Education Policy Academy](#) 2022

[SHEEO & Gates Community of Practice: Data Modeling for State Attainment Goals](#) 2018

[NCES Data Institute](#) 2018

## Teaching Experience

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**Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Vanderbilt University (HOD 2500: Systematic Inquiry), Spring 2025. Instructor of record; 87 undergraduate students; managed 3 teaching assistants; transitioned the course from in-person to hybrid modality.

**Teaching Assistant**, Stanford University (PUBLPOL 301B: Economic Policy Analysis for Policymakers), Spring 2020–2022. 15–20 undergraduate and graduate students; taught weekly discussion sections to provide additional support for students; redesigned the course for online delivery during COVID (2020–2021); resumed in-person instruction in 2022.

## Invited Talks

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\* indicates the presenting author(s)

**Dell, M.\***, Palffy, P., Brox, E., Schilter, C., & Backes-Gellner, U. (2026, May 11). *Choice architecture and occupational choices*. Lecture delivered in the [Seminar of Economics and Management \(SEAM\)](#) at Paderborn University.

**Dell, M.\*** (2025, February 27). *The Tennessee Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Cara DeLoach's Research in Human Development (HDS 7810) class at Vanderbilt University.

DeLoach, C.\* & **Dell, M.\*** (2025, January 21). *Pathways to transfer & community college student success*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Emily House's Community Colleges, Credentialing, and Vocationalism in Higher Education (HEA 6220) class at Vanderbilt University.

**Dell, M.\*** (2024, October 14). *An introduction to the Tennessee Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Christine Dickason's Qualitative Research Methods (EDUC 8122) class at George Washington University.

**Dell, M.\*** (2024, February 23). *Strategic research initiatives at TBR: Accelerated courses and the Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Rich Rhoda and Dr. Jill Channing's Spring 2024 Weekend Seminar I for the Certificate in Community College Leadership Program at East Tennessee State University.

**Dell, M.\*** (2023, November 29). *The Tennessee Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Eric Bettinger's Experimental Research Design and Analysis (EDUC 430A) class at Stanford University.

Lehnert, P., **Dell, M.**, Backes-Gellner, U., & Bettinger, E.\* (2023, November 1). *The effect of postsecondary institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view*. Paper presented at the [Hoover Institution's Economic Policy Working Group at Stanford University](#).

**Dell, M.\***, Monday, A., & Gentile, S. (2022, June 29). *Estimating the impact of PLUS loan policy changes on historically Black colleges and universities*. Paper presented at the University of Zurich's PhD Discussion Workshop: Personnel Economics and Economics of Education in Laax, Switzerland.

Backes-Gellner, U., Bettinger, E.\* , **Dell, M.**, & Lehnert, P. (2022, February 17). *The effect of postsecondary institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view*. Paper presented at the Swiss Leading House's "[Friday Lunch Talk Series](#)" at the University of Zurich.

## Conference Presentations

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Details about each presentation are available upon request; \* indicates presentations I delivered

**2026:** COPE;\* LEER;\* ifo Dresden Workshop; IAB HELM;\* SASE;\* AOM (poster);\* AQMAPPS\*

**2025:** AOM;\* VET Workshop (Bergamo, Italy)\*

**2024:** APPAM; SREE; TENNAIR;\* AEFPP; DREAM;\* TBR Advising Academy\*

**2023:** NACADA;\* TBR Advising Academy\*  
**2022:** First International Leading House Conference;\* APPAM;\* AEFPP;\* COPE  
**2021:** AEFPP\*  
**2020:** APPAM\*  
**2019:** ASHE; APPAM (poster);\* TENNAIR;\* EPSOs in Action (Nashville, Tennessee)\*  
**2018:** ASHE\*  
**2017:** ASHE (poster);\* College Promise Programs workshop (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
**2016:** SACSCOC;\* NSSR\*

## Service

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**Journal Referee:** *Review of Educational Research*, *Journal of Student Financial Aid*  
**Associate Editor:** AOM (2026, Public and Nonprofit Division)  
**Proposal Reviewer:** SREE (2026); AOM (2026, Human Resources Division); DRUID (2023, 2025–2026); AERA (2020–2021); NCES Data Institute (2018–2020); ASHE (2018–2019)  
**Panelist:** ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar (2023–2024)  
**Conference Roles:** COPE (session chair, 2025); Stanford GSE Student Conference (committee member, 2020); ASHE (session chair, 2018); We All Rise Conference (committee co-chair, 2018)

## Relevant Employment

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<b>Consultant,</b> <a href="#">Evaluation and Assessment Solutions for Education</a>	2025–
<b>Research Assistant,</b> Funder: <a href="#">Student Loan Law Initiative</a> (PI: Daniel Collier)	2020–
<b>Graduate Research Assistant,</b> <a href="#">John W. Gardner Center</a> , Stanford University	2020–22
<b>Contract Researcher,</b> Funder: Arnold Ventures (PI: <a href="#">SHEEO</a> )	2020–21

## Technical Skills

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Stata, R (quantitative analysis); LaTeX; SQL (administrative data management); Power BI, Tableau (data visualization); QuestionPro (survey platforms); Dedoose (qualitative analysis)