

Madison Dell

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Research Interests

Economics of education; Postsecondary access and success; Vocational education and training; Experimental and quasi-experimental methods.

Employment

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Zurich & Swiss Leading House	2025–
Senior Director for Strategic Research Initiatives, Tennessee Board of Regents	2022–25
Doctoral Student, Stanford University	2019–23
Research Analyst, Tennessee Higher Education Commission	2016–19

Education

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

Publications

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>.

Working Papers

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>.

Teaching Experience

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.

Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

Grant

Funder: Ascendium Education Group (\$734,300) 2022–24

Role: **Co-Principal Investigator**

Title: Fast track to success? A mixed methods evaluation of condensed course formats

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

Invited Seminars (* indicates the presenter/presenters)

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.

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](#).

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.

Guest Lectures (* indicates the presenter/presenters)

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.

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.

Conference Presentations (details available upon request; * indicates presentations I gave)

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

2025: AOM;* VET Workshop (Bergamo, IT)*

2024: APPAM; SREE; TENNAIR;* AEFP; DREAM;* TBR Advising Academy*

2023: NACADA;* TBR Advising Academy*

2022: First International Leading House Conference;* APPAM;* AEFP;* COPE

2021: AEFP*

2020: APPAM*

2019: ASHE; APPAM (poster);* TENNAIR;* EPSOs in Action (Nashville, USA)*

2018: ASHE*

2017: ASHE (poster);* College Promise Programs workshop (Philadelphia, USA)

2016: SACSCOC;* NSSR*

Research and Policy Reports (Not Peer-Reviewed)

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](#).

Technical Skills

Statistical Software: Stata, R

Programming & Typesetting: LaTeX, SQL

Visualization: Power BI, Tableau

Qualitative Analysis & Survey Administration: QuestionPro, Dedoose

Service

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)