

## EDUCATION

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** May 2025

Ph.D. in Education

*Area: Policy, Leadership, & School Improvement*

*Dissertation: Essays on Understanding and Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline*

*Committee: Drs. Lauren Sartain (chair), Steve Hemelt, Ethan Hutt, Daniel*

*Klasik, and Constance Lindsay*

**Vanderbilt University** May 2020

M.P.P. in Education Policy

**Wake Forest University** May 2016

B.S. in Mathematics

*Honors Thesis: Models for Ordinal Data*

## RESEARCH INTEREST

Teacher Labor Markets, Teacher Preparation and Licensure, Distribution of Teacher Quality, Rural Education, and the Economics of Education

## RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** Chapel Hill, NC

Dr. Lauren Sartain

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Aug 2020–Present

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** Chapel Hill, NC

North Carolina Education Futures Initiative

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Jun 2021–Present

**The Hunt Institute**

Durham, NC

K-12 Policy and Research

*Policy and Research Fellow*

May 2020–Feb 2021

**Vanderbilt University**

Nashville, TN

Tennessee Education Research Alliance

*Graduate Assistant*

Sep 2018–May 2020

**North Carolina School of Science and Math**

Durham, NC

Department of Student Services

*Student Life Instructor*

Jul 2016–Aug 2018

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**EDUC 309: Foundations of Leadership**

Chapel Hill, NC

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Instructor of Record, Undergraduate Students*

*Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Students*

Spring 2025

Spring & Fall 2024

**EDUC 257: Inquiry and Data Applications**

Chapel Hill, NC

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Students*

Spring 2024

## PUBLICATIONS

### REFEREED PAPERS

Barrow, L., **Morris, W. T.**, & Sartain, L. (2024). The Expanding Landscape of Online Education: Who Engages and How They Fare. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 42:S1, S417-S443.  
<https://doi.org/10.1086/728807>

Sartain, L., & **Morris, W. T.** (2024). Are Teachers Satisfied With Their Evaluations? The Importance of Teaching Context and Trends Over Time. *AERA Open*, 10.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584231221539>

### UNDER REVIEW

Sartain, L., Zaharan, W., Hutt, E., Klasik, D., & **Morris, W. T.** “Grading The Pandemic: Student Use of University Pass/Fail Policies in Spring 2020”

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Klasik, D., **Morris, W. T.**, Hutt, E., Sartain, L., & Zaharan, W. “How Do Unexpected College Grades Shape Race and Gender Gaps in the Stem Pipeline?”

**Morris, W. T.** “Financial Aid for Educators: Assessing a Federal Grants Impact on Teachers Postsecondary Decisions”

**Morris, W. T.**, Sartain, L., & Estrera, E. “Emergency in the Classroom: Licensure and Beginning Teacher Outcomes”

**Morris, W. T.** “Now Hiring: Geographic Trends in K-12 Job Postings”

### GENERAL AUDIENCE

Barrow, L., **Morris, W. T.**, & Sartain, L. (2023). The Expanding Landscape of Online Education: Who Engages and How They Fare, A Research Brief” [North Carolina Education Futures Initiative, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.](#)

**Morris, W. T.**, Ronfeldt, M., Bardelli E., & Truwit M. (2020) “Learning from the Best: Promising Practices in Preparing Tennessee’s Future Teachers” [Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University.](#)

**Morris, W. T.** (2019) “Teacher Perceptions of Evaluation Fairness and Burden” [Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University.](#)

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Pairing for Success: Exploring Mentor-Teacher Pairings for Early Career Teacher Retention and Growth. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2025)

Now Hiring: Geographic Trends in K-12 Schools Job Postings in North Carolina. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2025)

Tell me what you want, what you really, really want: What can we learn about the demand for educational professionals from district job postings?. Presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. (September, 2024)

Financial Aid for Future Educators: Assessing a Federal Grant's Impact on Students' Postsecondary. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2024)

Where Do They Come from? Where Do They Go? The Geography of Teacher Labor Markets and Teacher Preparation Programs. Presented at the Association of Public Policy and Management. (November 2023)

How Do Unexpected College Grades Shape Race and Gender Gaps in the Stem Pipeline? Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2023)

The Expanding Landscape of Online Education: Who Engages and How They Fare. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2022)

Teacher Satisfaction with Teacher Evaluation: Factors that Explain the Variation. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2021)

Fairness and Burden in Tennessee's Statewide Teacher Evaluation System: How Educators Preparation and Information Systems Can Make a Difference. Presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. (March, 2020)

**FELLOWSHIPS  
& AWARDS**

Dean Smith Opening Doors Fellowship (2024 – 2025) School of Education, UNC Chapel Hill

Roe L. Jones Student Travel Grant (2024) Association of Education Finance and Policy

Education Policy Academy (2023), American Enterprise Institute

Community Engagement Fellow (2022 - 2023), Center for Public Service, UNC Chapel Hill

**Wesley T. Morris**

3500 Peabody Hall  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

(910) 220-7683  
wtmorris@email.unc.edu

William Self Endowment (2022 - 2023), School of Education, UNC  
Chapel Hill

**SERVICE**

**Graduate Student Association**

Chapel Hill, NC

School of Education, UNC Chapel Hill

*President*

AY 2023-24

*Vice President*

AY 2022-23

**Referee**

Journals:

*Educational Researcher and The High School Journal*

**PROFESSIONAL  
AFFILIATIONS**

Assosiation for Education Finance and Policy

2019 – Present

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2023 – Present

American Education Research Association

2023 – Present