

Wesley T. Morris

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

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Education

May 2025

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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

M.P.P., Education Policy

May 2020

Vanderbilt University

B.S., Mathematics

May 2016

Wake Forest University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Maryland, College Park

Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Jun 2025–Present

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

North Carolina Education Futures Initiative

Research Affiliate

Jun 2025–Present

RESEARCH INTEREST

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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

School of Education

Research Assistant, Dr. Lauren Sartain

Aug 2020–May 2025

Research Assistant, NCEFI

Jun 2021–May 2025

Hunt Institute

K-12 Policy and Research

Policy and Research Fellow

May 2020–Feb 2021

Vanderbilt University

Tennessee Education Research Alliance

Graduate Assistant

Sep 2018–May 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUC 309: Foundations of Leadership

Instructor of Record

Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant

Spring & Fall 2024

EDUC 257: Inquire and Data Applications

Teaching Assistant

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

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

SERVICE

Graduate Student Association

School of Education, UNC Chapel Hill

President

Vice President

Chapel Hill, NC

AY 2023-24

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

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

2024 – Present