

# Replication (Bostwick et.al, 2022)

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## Introduction:

This README document offers an overview of the datasets and software necessary for reproducing the initial three tables and the first two figures that underpin the findings presented in "Semester or Quarters? The Effect of the Academic Calendar on Postsecondary Student Outcomes." This paper, authored by Valerie Bostwick, Stefanie Fischer, and Matthew Lang in 2022, was published in the American Economic Journal: Policy. Please contact Yuqing Zhao, [yzhao459@wisc.edu](mailto:yzhao459@wisc.edu) with any questions.

## Description of the data:

Publicly available data:

- The primary analysis leverages data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), accessible at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>. These data is employed and it generates the findings presented in Tables 1-3, Appendix Tables A1-A2, Figures 1-2, and Appendix Figures A1-A3.

## Software requirements:

Stata: The individual-level analysis was last conducted using Stata 17 on 02/23/2024.

User-written Stata commands need to download:

- Outreg2
- Sutex

## Description of Do files:

Master\_Create\_IPEDS.do: This script produces the refined IPEDS dataset for the core analysis, yielding the dataset named `ipeds_cleaned_final.dta`.

The following programs produce the results for the main analysis (institution level analysis).

- IPEDS\_Analysis\_Tables.do:
- IPEDS\_Analysis\_Table\_A1:
- IPEDS\_Analysis\_Figures.do:

### **Replication file of the programs:**

1. Find master Master\_Create\_IPEDS.do from downloaded replication file “Do” folder. This program calls in the six different IPEDS files and cleans them.
2. Check if directorycreate1\_2017.dta, facultycreate1\_2017.dta, gradcreate1\_2017.dta, institutioncreate1\_2017.dta, revenuecreate1\_2017.dta, tuitioncreate1\_2017.dta are contained under “Data” folder.
3. Change the right path in Master\_Create\_IPEDS.do file.
4. Run Master\_Create\_IPEDS.do to generate ipeds\_cleaned\_final.dta.
5. Change the right path in following do files, and then run IPEDS\_Analysis\_Table\_A1.do, IPEDS\_Analysis\_Tables.do, IPEDS\_Analysis\_Figures.do under “Do” folder with ipeds\_cleaned\_final.dta.
6. New generated tables and graphs could be seen in “Output” folder.

### **Reference:**

Bostwick, Valerie, Stefanie Fischer, and Matthew Lang. (2022). Semesters or Quarters? The Effect of the Academic Calendar on Postsecondary Student Outcomes. *American Economic Journal: Policy*, 14(1), 40–80. <https://doi.org/10.1257/pol.20190589>