

Chris L. Barker

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Citizenship: United States

[SSRN Author Page](#)

Research interests

Public Choice Economics, Education, Health, Political Science, Sports

Employment

- 2019 – Present **Harding University** – Searcy, Arkansas
Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance
- 2005 – 2019 **National Federation of Independent Business** – Nashville, Tennessee
Managing Director of Compliance

Education

- 2021 – 2025 **Middle Tennessee State University** – Murfreesboro, Tennessee
PhD in Economics
Mentors: Professors Daniel J. Smith, Ennio E. Piano, and Charles L. Baum
- 2014 – 2016 **Middle Tennessee State University** – Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Masters of Business Administration
- 2003 – 2009 **Middle Tennessee State University** – Murfreesboro, Tennessee
MA in History
Mentors: Professors Amy L. Sayward, Jerry Brookshire
- 1988 – 1993 **Harding University** – Searcy, Arkansas
BBA in Management and Accounting

Working Papers

- 2026 **Has NIL Nationalized College Football Recruiting? Evidence from Geographic Recruiting Patterns**
Chris L. Barker.
- 2025 **Capitalism and Wealth Concentration, 2000-2019**
Chris L. Barker, Daniel J. Smith..
[SSRN Link](#)
- 2024 **The Impact of the Bowl Championship Series on Competitive Balance in Major College Football**
Chris L. Barker, Daniel J. Smith.
[SSRN Link](#)
- 2023 **Property Rights and Economic Teaching: An Examination of Economics Textbooks**
Chris L. Barker.

Teaching experience

- ECON 2010 Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECON 2020 Principles of Microeconomics
- FIN 3430 Managerial Finance
- FIN 3440 Principles of Investments
- FIN 3550 Real Estate Finance
- FIN 3850 Risk Analysis and Insurance
- FIN 4350 International Financial Management
- FIN 4450 Advanced Financial Management

Presentations

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| February 2026
(upcoming) | A Clash of Belief: How Communism and Christianity are in Opposition
<i>Harding University Liberty and Character Forum</i> |
| October 2024 | Thinking Economically
<i>Harding University Colloquium on the Liberal Arts</i> |

University committees and service

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| August 2020 –
Present | University Academic Assessment Committee (College of Business Administration) |
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Professional memberships

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| 2025 – Present | American Economic Association |
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Technical skills

Programming languages

Proficient in: R programming language, Stata statistical software
Familiar with: Quarto, Python

Software

L^AT_EX, Git