

Gabriel J. Olivier

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FIELDS	Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Political Economy, Empirical Policy Analysis
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EDUCATION	Tulane University , New Orleans, LA Ph.D., Economics Anticipated May 2026 Committee: Douglas N. Harris (Chair), Patrick Testa, and Emily Cook
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Louisiana State University , Baton Rouge, LA 2021 B.A., Economics (Concentration: Empirical Economic Analysis) B.S., Mathematics (Concentration: Mathematical Statistics) B.A., Political Science (Concentration: Public Policy & Political Analysis) Honors: <i>summa cum laude</i> and College Honors

JOB MARKET PAPER	Minimum Wage Policy and Human Capital Formation: College Enrollment and Major Choice. <i>Abstract:</i> The minimum wage affects both employment and wages and therefore the opportunity cost of anything substituted for employment. Importantly, one such substitution is human capital formation, including college education. A higher minimum wage increases the opportunity cost of college attendance and the earnings of employed students, which may discourage or encourage attendance through substitution or income effects respectively. To investigate the effects of minimum wage increases on college enrollment and major choice, I focus on recent high school graduates and large increases in effective state minimum wages from 2004 to 2013. All states experience a change in their effective minimum wage during this period, and I focus on the timing and magnitude of these changes to identify effects. In two separate difference-in-differences analyses using ACS and NCES data, I find that increases in effective state minimum wages increase the likelihood of enrolling in college (income effect) but also substantially increase the probability of dropping out before completion (substitution effect). More students initially enroll in college, but after enrollment, the dropout effect takes over, resulting in lower net enrollment. While the dropout effect dominates overall, I find uneven effects across college majors for 4-year colleges, with losses in lower-earning majors (business, education, and psychology), and increases in higher-earning majors (STEM, health, engineering, and biology). This is consistent with the theory that a higher forgone wage makes college enrollment less rational for certain lower-earning majors.
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WORKING PAPERS	The Effects of Universal School Vouchers on Private School Tuition and Enrollment: A National Analysis (with Douglas N. Harris) Media references: The New York Times , Fordham Institute's Education Gadfly Podcast and WWL New Orleans
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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS	Desegregation Busing and the Market for Private Schools Forced Migration, Xenophobia, and Educational Attainment: The Acadian Diaspora and the 1921 Louisiana Ban on Cajun French in Public Schools.
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PRESENTATIONS	2025: SEA (Tampa, FL), APPAM (Seattle, WA), AEFPP (Washington, D.C.), Harvard School Choice Conference (Cambridge, MA), Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar (New Orleans, LA) 2024: AEFPP (Baltimore, MD) presenting two papers, APPAM (National Harbor, MD), SEA (Washington, D.C.), Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar (New Orleans, LA)
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2023: Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar (New Orleans, LA).

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Introduction to Microeconomics	40 Students
Stata Lab	29 Students
Designed, implemented, and refined a new course for the Tulane Economics Department that will become a degree requirement in AY 2025-26.	
This course follows the undergraduate Econometrics course (corequisite) by reviewing Econometric theory and implementing it in Stata.	

Teaching Assistant

Graduate Econometrics I (Ph.D), Undergraduate Econometrics, World Economy, Approaches to Environmental Studies (methods course), Stata Lab, Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics

**OTHER
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

Research Analyst, Convergence Strategy Group	2025-Present
Collected data both manually and through web scraping, analyzed data, interpreted trends, and created data-focused reports to help inform clients about the economic conditions surrounding casinos in particular areas.	
Research Affiliate, Education Research Alliance for New Orleans (ERA) and National Center for Research on Education, Access, and Choice (REACH)	2023-Present
Worked to expand the National Longitudinal School Database (NLSD) with data I collected from Private School Review via web scraping and instructed and supervised interns on data tasks.	
Studyville ACT Program Coordinator	2019-2021
Created, implemented, refined, and sold an ACT prep program to a private study center in Baton Rouge, LA. The program is still in use today and is based on data-generation, as instruction is mapped to students' incorrect answers on ACT-approved practice materials.	

**GRANTS AND
AWARD**

Tulane University	
J.E. Land Grant (\$1500)	2025
GSSA Travel Grant (\$500)	2024, 2025
Louisiana State University	
Economics, Finance, and ITF Majors Macroeconomics Award	2021

**CERTIFICATIONS
AND SKILLS**

Tulane University	
Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching Certification	2024
3-semester graduate pedagogy program	
Louisiana State University	
College Reading and Learning (CRLA) Certification 2/3	2019
Technical Skills	
Stata, R, LaTeX, and Python	

REFERENCES

Douglas N. Harris
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Patrick Testa
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