CV of Failures

Javier Gonzalez — *Updated* as of 2025-10-10

"Most of what I try fails, but these failures are often invisible, while the successes are visible."

An interviewee on the Freakonomics podcast stated that people often see the tech stars at their top of their careers. However, people fail to understand that they needed to take innumerable smalls steps to get to the top. Among those small steps, there are several step backs, mistakes, and failures. This CV of Failures is an attempt to provide some perspective on my journey.

I copied this idea, and the quote, from Johannes Haushofer who wrote his CV of failures inspired by Melanie I. Stefan's article.

Programs I did not get into

2021 Ph.D. in Economics: Penn State, University of Michigan, University of Min-

nesota, Bonn GSE, Zurich GSE, University of Illinois, Barcelona GSE, UC Berkeley, Northwestern, Boston University, University of Toronto, Stockholm University, University of Maryland, NYU, Texas A&M, and University

College London

rejected

2021 Research Masters in Economics: Tilburg University and Tinbergen Insti-

tute

rejected

2015 B.A. in Economics: Universidad de Chile

2nd place in the waiting list

Academic positions and fellowships I did not get

2025 SMU O'Donnell Graduate Fellowship

ACES Gerard Roland Dissertation Fellowship

2021 Pre-docs: Chicago's Becker Friendman Institute and Booth School

data task and did not get an interview

Awards and scholarships I did not get

2024 SMU Provost's Summer Research Grant

Conferences and summer schools I did not qualify

2024 ACES Summer School in Political Economy

NBER Digital Economics and Artificial Intelligence

2023 RIDGE Summer School in Economics