

**RILEY K. ACTON**  
Curriculum Vitae

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department of Economics  
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**EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Professor, Miami University, Department of Economics, 2020 – present

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Research Affiliate, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), 2021 – present  
Research Affiliate, College Crisis Initiative, 2020 – present

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Economics, Michigan State University, 2020  
M.A., Economics, Michigan State University, 2016  
B.S., Economics & Mathematics, Ursinus College, 2015 (*summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa)

**FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Economics of Education, Health Economics

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

Current & former Miami student coauthors underlined

“Is a Name Change a Game Change? The Impact of College-to-University Conversions.” *Economics of Education Review*, 88, 2022.

“The Influence of Peer Institutions on Colleges’ Decisions: Evidence from Fall 2020 Reopening Plans” (with Emily Cook & Allison Luedtke). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 195, 2022.

“Do Health Insurance Mandates Spillover to Education? Evidence from Michigan's Autism Insurance Mandate” (with Scott Imberman & Michael Lovenheim). *Journal of Health Economics*, 80, 2021.

“Community College Program Choices in the Wake of Local Job Losses.” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 39(4), 2021.

“Effects of Reduced Community College Tuition on College Choices and Degree Completion.” *Education Finance and Policy*, 16(3), 2021.

**SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“The Effect of Vaccine Mandates on Disease Spread: Evidence from College COVID-19 Mandates” (with Emily Cook, Wenjia Cao, Scott Imberman, and Michael Lovenheim)

“Returns to School Spending in Rural America: Evidence from Wisconsin’s Sparsity Aid Program”  
(with Cody Orr & Salem Rogers)

“Suspended from Work and School: Impacts of Layoff Events and Unemployment Insurance on  
Disciplinary Incidence” (with Jo Alkhafaji-King & Austin Smith)

## **INVITED & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2022: APPAM Fall Research Conference (delayed from 2021), University of Central Oklahoma,  
Ohio State University, NYU Wagner, Elon University (scheduled), RAND (scheduled)

2021: University of Memphis, University of North Texas, AEFP Annual Conference, SOLE Annual  
Meetings, University of Exeter, Liberal Arts College Labor & Public Conference, WEAI Annual  
Conference, Kansas State University, Davidson College

2020: University of Notre Dame, Miami University, Wake Forest University, Dickinson College,  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, The Brookings Institution

2019: AEFP Annual Conference, University of Michigan H2D2 Day (poster session), University of  
Toledo, SOLE Annual Meetings, UM-MSU-UWO Labor Day, APPAM International Conference,  
APPAM Fall Research Conference, American University School of Public Affairs, University of  
Michigan CIERS Seminar, University of Texas at Dallas

2018: AEFP Annual Conference, University of Michigan CIERS Seminar, APPAM Fall Research  
Conference

## **SPONSORED RESEARCH**

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$78,983, August 2021 – August 2022. “Impact of Sparsity  
Funding in State Formulas” (PI).

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

Honorable Mention, Jean Flannigan Outstanding Dissertation Award, AEFP	2021
University Distinguished Fellowship, MSU	2015-2020
Department of Economics Excellence-in-Teaching Award, MSU	2018
Red Cedar Award (best third year paper), MSU	2018
Compton-Rose Prize (top graduating economics major), Ursinus College	2015

## **TEACHING & ADVISING**

### Courses taught at Miami University:

ECO 415/515/630, Topics in Microeconomics (S21, S22)  
ECO 315, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (F20, S21, F21)

### Courses taught at Michigan State University:

EC 480, Analysis of Labor Markets (S19)  
EC 202, Introduction to Macroeconomics (SU17)

### Invited guest lectures:

Claremont Graduate University, ECON 371 – Labor Supply  
Michigan State University, EC 485 – Economics of Education

M.A. thesis advising at Miami University (with initial placement): \* denotes advisor or co-advisor

2022: Emma LaGuardia\* (Chicago Fed), Davis Heyman (Jefferies), Sofiya Kryvoruchenko,  
Jacob Pieniazek (84.51°)

2021: Jo King (NYU Wagner Ph.D.), Sidney Hutson (Cleveland Research Company),  
Noah Tilton (Ankura Consulting Group)

## **REFeree SERVICE**

*Economics of Education Review* (4), *Education Finance and Policy* (3), *Journal of Public Economics* (3), *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management* (2), *AERA Open*, *American Education Research Journal*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Education Economics*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *Higher Education*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Graduate Studies Committee, 2021 – present  
Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2021  
Seminar Committee, 2020 – present  
Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, 2020 – present  
Co-Advisor, Women in Economics Club, 2020 – present