

**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**

- “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.

**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 King & Austin Smith)

“A More Promising Future? College Access and Adolescent Mental Health” (with Katlyn Hettinger)

## **INVITED & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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

2021: University of Memphis, University of North Texas, AEFPP 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: AEFPP 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: AEFPP 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, AEFPP	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, 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 Comapny),  
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