

**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**

“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.

**WORKING PAPERS**

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

“Is a Name Change a Game Change? The Impact of College-to-University Conversions.” Revisions requested at *Economics of Education Review*.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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

“The Effects of College Vaccine Mandates on COVID-19 Infections, Hospitalizations, and Deaths” (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)

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

## INVITED & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022: APPAM Fall Research Conference (scheduled), University of Central Oklahoma (scheduled), NYU Wagner (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 630, Topics in Microeconomics (Spring 2021)

ECO 315, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

Courses taught at Michigan State University:

EC 480, Analysis of Labor Markets (Spring 2019)  
EC 202, Introduction to Macroeconomics (Summer 2017)

Invited guest lectures:

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

Graduate advising at Miami University (with initial placement): \* denotes advisor or co-advisor

Emma LaGuardia* (2022)	
Jo King (2021)	Ph.D. Student at NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Sidney Hutson (2021)	Market Research Associate at Cleveland Research Company
Noah Tilton (2021)	Healthcare Disputes Associate at Ankura Consulting Group

**REFeree SERVICE**

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