

STEPHANIE OWEN

CONTACT

sowen@colby.edu
301 385 2493
[Website](#)

Colby College Department of Economics
5237 Mayflower Hill Drive
Waterville, ME 04901

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Colby College

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

2021-present

Opportunity Insights, Harvard University

Associate

Fall 2024

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

Ph.D in Economics and Public Policy

2021

M.A. in Economics

2018

Vassar College

B.A. in Economics and French with a minor in Mathematics

2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of education, labor economics, public policy

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Dynarski, S., Libassi, C., Michelmore, K., and **Owen, S.** (2021). Closing the Gap: The Effect of Reducing Complexity and Uncertainty in College Pricing on the Choices of Low-Income Students. *American Economic Review* 111(6), 1721-56.

Burland, E., Dynarski, S., Michelmore, K., **Owen, S.**, and Raghuraman, S. (2023) The Power of Certainty: Experimental Evidence on the Effective Design of Free Tuition Policies. *American Economic Review: Insights* 5(3): 293-310.

Owen, S. (2023). College Major Choice and Beliefs about Relative Performance: An Experimental Intervention to Understand Gender Gaps in STEM. *Economics of Education Review* 97, Article 102479.

Owen, S. (2025). The Advanced Placement Program and Educational Inequality. *Education Finance & Policy* 20 (1): 1–32.

WORKING PAPERS

Ahead of the Curve: Grade Signals, Gender, and College Major Choice

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Experimental Evidence on the Effects of College Quality on Educational Attainment (with Elizabeth Burland, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Leu, CJ Libassi, Katherine Micheltore, and Mary Quiroga)

Implicit Gender-STEM Stereotypes and College Major Choice (with Derek Rury)

Choice of and Return to Postsecondary Major/Program [AEFP Live Handbook chapter] (with Johnathan Conzelmann and Andrew Simon)

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Assistant, Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan 2016-2021

Research Associate II, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC 2013-2015

Research Assistant, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC 2011-2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Colby College (as Instructor of Record):

EC133: Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)

EC334: Economics of Education (Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

EC476: Access, Affordability, and Equity in Higher Education (Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

University of Michigan (as Graduate Student Instructor):

Econ 101: Principles of Economics I (Fall 2018)

Econ 395: Economics of Crime (Winter 2019)

Vassar College (as Academic Intern):

Econ 201: Microeconomic Theory (Fall 2010, Spring 2011)

SELECTED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award, nominated 2023

Association for Education Finance and Policy Dissertation Award, nominated 2021

Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) Dissertation Award, awarded 2021

Pre-doctoral fellow, Training Program in Causal Inference in Education Policy Research, Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, awarded 2016

Emilie Louise Wells Fellowship, Vassar College, awarded 2015

Virginia Swinburne Brownell Prize for Excellence in Political Economy, Vassar College, awarded 2011

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED SEMINARS

2024: Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Northeast Economics of Education Workshop, Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, Opportunity Insights

2023: Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting, Maine Economics Conference, CESifo Economics of Education Area Conference, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Northeast Economics of Education Workshop, University of Wisconsin – Madison Public Economics seminar

2022: National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Public Economics Meeting, Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), The Economics and Econometrics of Education Markets Conference, Liberal Arts College Labor and Public Conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), University of Chicago experimental economics brown bag seminar

2021: Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Western Economic Association International (WEAI), Northeast Economics of Education Workshop, University of Maine School of Economics

2020: Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), University of Michigan Human Capital, History, Demography, and Development (H2D2) Research Day

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee

Quarterly Journal of Economics; American Economic Review: Insights; American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; Review of Economics and Statistics; Economic Journal; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Labor Economics; Labour Economics; Economics of Education Review; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Population Economics; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Education Finance & Policy; Education Economics; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Contemporary Economic Policy; The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy; Southern Economic Journal Review of Economics of the Household; Research in Higher Education

Member

American Economic Association; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management; Association for Education Finance and Policy; Omicron Delta Epsilon; Phi Beta Kappa

Other Professional Affiliations

Affiliate member, CESifo Research Network; Invited researcher, J-PAL North America's Social Policy Research Initiative; Sponsored Affiliate, Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan