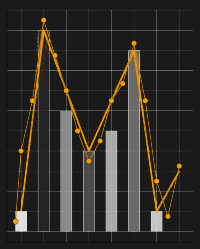


Matt Capaldi

Ph.D. Candidate

Email
Phone
Website
Google Scholar
ORCID
GitHub
StackOverflow

Education

Ph.D. Higher Education Administration — *Summer 2025 (Expected)*
Minor in Urban and Regional Planning
Dissertation: *A collection of essays exploring the link between transportation and college student outcomes*
University of Florida, FL

M.Ed. Research and Evaluation Methodology — *Fall 2024 (Expected)*
University of Florida, FL

M.Ed. Student Personnel in Higher Education — *Spring 2020*
University of Florida, FL

B.A. International Relations with Political Science — *Summer 2018*
Year Abroad: Providence College, RI
University of Birmingham, UK

Experience

Graduate Assistant & Fellow — *August 2021 – Present*
University of Florida, FL

Teaching Experience

EDH 7916: Contemporary Research in Higher Education – *"The R Class"*

Co-Instructor — *Spring 2025*

Co-Instructor — *Spring 2024*

- Took over instruction and grading for the technical R portions of the course following Dr. Skinner's departure
- Refreshed the course website including simpliying some of the core content (e.g. loops), updating the .Rmd lesson to Quarto, and adding a Tidyverse to SQL translation lesson
- 5.0 (Mdn) 4.3 (M) out of 5.0 course evaluation see public results

Teaching Assistant — *Spring 2023*

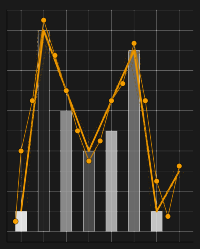
- Assisted Dr. Skinner with 1:1 troubleshooting for lessons and assignments during class and office hours
- Designed and taught a new lesson on mapping and working with spatial data in R based off a real-world past GA task

Research Experience

- Spatially merged meteorological and government emergency response data with IPEDS to explore the impact of extreme weather on colleges
- Spatially lined up TX community college service areas with high school districts to explore equity of institutional access
- Gathered data and created tables and visualizations for a report targeted at state policy makers
- Created a new dataset of state-run merit-based aid programs in the US which led to a new typology being proposed

Residence Hall Coordinator — *July 2020 – May 2021*
University of Missouri, MO

Graduate Community Coordinator — *July 2019 – May 2020*
University of Florida, FL



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Summer Sessions Graduate Intern *May 2019 – July 2019*
Georgetown University, DC

Graduate Assistant *August 2018 – May 2019*
University of Florida

Advising Intern *January 2018 – June 2018*
US-UK Fulbright Commission

Student Ambassador *January 2015 – June 2018*
University of Birmingham

Technical Skills

Regression-Based Analysis
- Ordinary Least Squares
- Logistic
- Cox Proportional Hazard
- Geographically Weighted
- Fixed Effects

Quasi-Experimental Designs
- Propensity Scores
- Instrumental Variables
- Difference in Differences
- Regression Discontinuity

Spatial Statistics
- Spatial Projections & Mapping
- Distance Calculation
- Clusters & Hot-Spots
- Spatial Outlier
- Interpolation

Psychometrics & Latent Variables
- Classical Test Theory
- Factor Analysis
- Item Response Theory
- Basic Computational Psychometrics
- Structural Equation Modeling

Natural Language Processing
- Structural Topic Modeling

Bayesian Statistics
- Bayesian Regression (MCMC)

R Shiny Python Git Zotero Quarto & Rmd
Stata SPSS Qualtrics GIS Typst Microsoft Office

Published Work

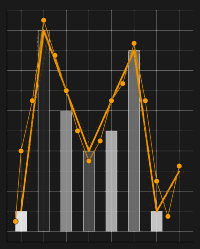
Peer-Reviewed Articles

Capaldi, M. J., & Shin, J. (under review). A time and place for (sustainable) campus planning: using structural topic models to explore variations in planning priorities at large us public colleges. *Research in Higher Education*.

Hu, X., Fernandez, F., Qiu, Y., & ***Capaldi, M.*** (2024). The good, the bad, and the balanced: a typology of state merit-aid programs for community college students. *Community College Review*, *52*(3), 289–314. https://doi.org/10.1177/00915521241238753

Capaldi, M. J. (2023). The route to graduation: an exploration of the association between transit stop proximity and pell recipient completion rates at us commuter colleges. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. https://doi.org/10.1177/15210251231156421

Reports



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Fernandez, F., Hu, X., & ***Capaldi, M.*** (2023). *Exploring equitable public higher education funding models in Illinois*. Partnership for College Completion. https://partnershipfcc.org/publications/adequacy/

Commentary Articles

Capaldi, M. J. (2021, December 1). Ensuring equitable public safety responses in college towns. *American City and County*. https://www.americancityandcounty.com/2021/12/01/ensuring-equitable-public-safety-responses-in-college-towns/

Fernandez, F., & ***Capaldi, M. J.*** (2021, October 25). Studying political science motivates college students to register and vote – new research shows. *The Conversation*. http://theconversation.com/studying-political-science-motivates-college-students-to-register-and-vote-new-research-shows-168440

Software

Capaldi, M. J. (2024). *IPEDtaS: Automagically Download Labeled .dta IPEDS Files in Stata and R*. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13388846

Conference Presentations

Workshops

Capaldi, M. J. (2024, November 22). *Automating data retrieval for enhanced reproducibility: using Stata and R to "automagically" download labeled IPEDS data*. ASHE: Association for the Study of Higher Education. https://capaldi.info/ASHE24/

Paper Presentations

Capaldi, M. J., & Shin, J. (accepted). *Time and place for (sustainable) planning: a structural topic model analysis of campus master plans*. AERA: American Educational Research Association.

Hu, X., Fernandez, F., & ***Capaldi, M. J.*** (accepted). *With a Few Dollars More: Examining Community College Merit Aid, Enrollment, and Transfer*. AERA: American Educational Research Association.

Capaldi, M. J. (2024, November 21). *The route to retention: an analysis of transit stop proximity and urban commuter college retention*. ASHE: Association for the Study of Higher Education. https://capaldi.info/ASHE24/

Hu, X., Fernandez, F., Qiu, Y., & ***Capaldi, M. J.*** (2023, April 13). *A typology of state merit aid programs for community college students*. AERA: American Educational Research Association.

Funding

$1,000	Dr. Barbara Keener Dissertation Award University of Florida	*2024*
$2,500	Lincoln and Lillian Hall Fellowship in Memory of Albert G. Hall University of Florida	*2024*
$2,000	Patricia D. Conroy Endowed Scholarship University of Florida	*2023*
$31,000 & Tuition	Graduate School Funding Award University of Florida	*2021 – 2025*