

# Matthew J. Capaldi

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## Education

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- Ph.D.** Higher Education Administration *Summer 2025 (Expected)*  
University of Florida, FL  
Minor: Urban and Regional Planning  
Dissertation Papers
1. The Route to Graduation: An Exploration of the Association Between Transit Stop Proximity and Pell Recipient Completion Rates at US Commuter Colleges
  2. The Route to Retention: A Propensity Score and Instrumental Variable Analysis of Transit Stop Proximity and Urban US Commuter College Retention Rates
  3. Local Access Matters: A Structural Equation Modeling Exploration of the Association Between Transport Disadvantage and College Enrollment in New Jersey
- M.Ed.** Research and Evaluation Methodology *Fall 2024*  
University of Florida, FL  
**Final Project:** A Time and Place for (Sustainable) Campus Planning: Using Structural Topic Modeling to Explore Variations in Planning Priorities at Large US Public Colleges
- M.Ed.** Student Personnel in Higher Education *Spring 2020*  
University of Florida, FL
- B.A.** International Relations with Political Science *Summer 2018*  
University of Birmingham, UK  
Year Abroad: Providence College, RI

## Teaching Experience

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- EDH 7916: Contemporary Research in Higher Education** – “*The R Class*” – University of Florida  
Co-Instructor *Spring 2025*  
Co-Instructor *Spring 2024*
- Took over most of the teaching responsibility following previous instructor’s resignation
  - Course content available to view on [my class website](#)
- “In addition to knowing the subject matter so well, Matt also exhibited a passion for teaching which carried into the classroom. The lectures were engaging and Matt seemed to have a genuine desire to help all of us in the class succeed.”* – Course Evaluation
- Teaching Assistant *Spring 2023*
- 1:1 Stata & Data Wrangling Tutoring** – University of Florida *Fall 2024*
- Automating Data Retrieval for Enhanced Reproducibility** – Conference Workshop *November 2024*

## Published Work

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### 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., & **Capaldi, M.** (under review). Growing Outcomes in the Garden State: Examining Community College Merit Aid, Enrollment, Completion, and Transfer. *Community College Review*.

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

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

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### 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.

## Employment History

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### Graduate Assistant & Fellow

University of Florida, FL

August 2021 – Present

### Residence Hall Coordinator

University of Missouri, MO

July 2020 – May 2021

### Graduate Community Coordinator

University of Florida, FL

July 2019 – May 2020

## Summer Sessions Graduate Intern

Georgetown University, DC

May 2019 – July 2019

## Graduate Assistant

University of Florida

August 2018 – May 2019

## Advising Intern

US-UK Fulbright Commission

January 2018 – June 2018

## Student Ambassador

University of Birmingham

January 2015 – June 2018

## 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

## Certifications

[Database Design and Basic SQL in PostgreSQL](#) – University of Michigan

December 2024

Intermediate PostgreSQL – University of Michigan

January 2025 (Expected)

## Technical Skills

### Regression-Based Analysis

- Linear Regression
- Logistic Regression
- Fixed Effects Regression
- Cox Proportional Hazards
- Bayesian Regression

### Psychometrics & Latent Variables

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

### Machine Learning Models

- Random Forests
- Neural Networks

### Spatial Statistics

- Spatial Projections & Mapping
- Distance Calculation
- Clusters & Hot-Spots
- Interpolation
- Geographically Weighted Regression

### Quasi-Experimental Designs

- Propensity Scores
- Instrumental Variables
- Difference in Differences
- Regression Discontinuity
- Entropy Balancing

### Natural Language Processing

- Structural Topic Modeling
- Text Classification & Clustering



R



Shiny



Python



Git



SQL



Microsoft Office



Stata



SPSS



Qualtrics



GIS



Typst



Quarto & Rmd