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Education

Cornell University, Ph.D. in Economics (2009)
Cornell University, M.A. in Economics (2008)
Colgate University, B.A. in Economics, Biology (2004)

Academic Positions

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Planning (July 2026-present)
Associate Dean for Academic Planning (July 2023-June 2026)
Chair of Economics Department, Wake Forest University (July 2021-June 2024)
Professor, Wake Forest University, Department of Economics (July 2023-present)
Associate Professor, Wake Forest University, Department of Economics (2015-2023)
Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, Department of Economics (2009-2015)

Editorial Positions

Coeditor, *Contemporary Economic Policy* (2019 – present)
Editorial Board member, *Economics of Education Review* (2018-present)

Research Fields

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Public Economics

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Second Try's a Charm: The Impact of Financial Aid Policy on Course Retaking Behavior for Low Income Students” (with V. Sovero). (2025). *Education Finance and Policy*, 20(3): 408-432.

“More A's and I get to stay? How grading influences employment outcomes for contingent faculty.” (with V. Sovero) (2024). *Education Economics*, 33(2): 277-292.

“Choosing an Engineering Discipline: A Conceptual Model of Student Pathways into Engineering.” (with J.B. Main, X.Xu, & A.M. Dukes) (2022). *Journal of Engineering Education*, 111(1): 40-64.

“The Role of the Teaching Assistant: Female Role Models in the Classroom.” (with Joyce B. Main) (2021). *Economics of Education Review*, 85, 102179.

“Under Pressure: How Faculty Gender and Contract Uncertainty Impact Students' Grades.” (with Veronica Sovero). (2021). *Economics of Education Review*, 83, 102126.

- “From SIGNALS to Success? The Effects of an online advising system on course grades.” (with Joyce B. Main). (2019). *Education Economics*, 27(6): 608-623
- “First Impressions in the Classroom: How do class characteristics affect student grades and majors?” (with Joyce B. Main) (2019) *Economics of Education Review*. 69. pp.125-137.
- “Allocating Group Housing.” (with Justin Burkett and Fran Flanagan). (2018) *Social Choice & Welfare*. 50(4). pp. 581-596.
- “The Effect of Institutional Expenditures on Employment Outcomes and Earnings” (with Kevin N. Rask). (2016) *Economic Inquiry*. 54(4). pp. 1931-1945.
- “Peer Effects in Higher Education: A Look at Heterogeneous Impacts.” (with Kevin N. Rask) (2014) *Economics of Education Review*. 39. pp. 65-77.
- “Faculty Gender in the College Classroom: Does it matter for achievement and major choice?” (2014) *Southern Economic Journal*. 81(1). pp. 211-231.
- “Using PGA Tour Results to Illustrate the Effects of Selection Bias” (with Todd A. McFall) (2013) *Journal of Economic Education*. 44(3). pp. 238-248.
- “Behavioral Responses to Epidemics in an Online Experiment” (with Frederick Chen, Allin Cottrell, and Yue-Ling Wong) (2013) *PLOS ONE*. January 9, 2013.
- “Keeping up with the Joneses: Institutional Changes Following the Adoption of a Merit Aid Policy.” (2011) *Economics of Education Review*. 30(5).
- “The Karyopherin Kap95 and the C-Termini of Rfa1, Rfa2, and Rfa3 Are Necessary for Efficient Nuclear Import of Functional RPA Complex Proteins in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.” (With Kenneth D. Belanger, Heather L. Baker, Jeanne N. Hansen, Laura A. Simmons Kovacs, Justin S. Seconi, & Andrew C. Strine) (2011) *DNA & Cell Biology*. 30(9). Pp. 641-651.
- “Persistence of women and minorities in STEM field majors: Is it the school that matters?” (2010) *Economics of Education Review*. 29(6). pp. 911-922.
- “Can’t Get There From Here: The Decision To Apply to a Selective Institution.” (2009) (with Donna S. Rothstein). *Economics of Education Review*. 28(5). pp. 620-628.
- “The Influence of the US News and World Report Rankings on the Matriculation Decision of High-Ability Students: 1995-2004.” (2007) (with Kevin N. Rask). *Economics of Education Review*. 26(2). pp. 244-255.

Working Papers

- “Parent Narratives and Insights into Pre-College Experiences and Engineering Major Choice” (with T. Dang, KM Blowers, & JB Main).

“Using Machine Learning Methods To Develop Person-Centered Models Predicting STEM Major Choice” (with M. Nagy, J.B. Main, & R. Molontay).

“The Gender and Race/Ethnicity Gaps in College Engineering Major Interest and Choice.” (with Joyce B. Main, Rajeev Darolia, & Cory Koedel).

“The Impact of Math and Science Remedial Education on Engineering Major Choice, Degree Attainment, and Time to Degree” (with JB Main)

“How a Community can Make an Engineer: The importance of social, cultural, and economic capital in pursuing a STEM major” (with Joyce B. Main)

“How Communities Contribute to the Development of Engineers: A Focus on Social, Cultural, and Economic Capital” (with Joyce B. Main) 2023 ASEE Annual Conference.

“Diversity across Engineering Disciplines: Factors that Influence Student Engineering Major Choice” (with JB Main, XR Xu, and AM Dukes) 2017 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition.

“There is no I in team: Peer effects in engineering” (with Joyce B. Main)

“Remedial Education in Engineering.” (with Joyce B. Main & Camille Wixon).

“The Importance of Aid and Institutional Expenditures for the Matriculation Decision of High-Ability Students” (with Kevin N. Rask)

“Factors affecting Major Choice & Occupational Choice of Minority Students” (with Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Gary Cohen)

“Test-Optional Admissions: Increasing Access or Selectivity?” (with Emily K. Rizik & Claire Hammond).

Contributions to Edited Volumes:

“Let’s Not Lose our Advantage in Higher Education.” (2022) in *Independent Review*. Edited by Robert Whaples.

“The Impact of Technology and Rule Changes on Elite Swimming Performances.” (with Todd McFall & Kurt Rotthoff). (2020). *The Economics of Aquatic Sports*, Springer. Pp 77-92.

Non-Peer Reviewed Contributions

Book review of “Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, & Accountability.” *Journal of Economic Literature*. 55(4). pp. 1626-1627.

“The Importance of Role Models” (Summer 2013) *Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession Summer Newsletter*.
http://www.aeaweb.org/committees/cswep/newsletters/CSWEP_nsltr_SprSum_2013.pdf

Work in Progress

“Flip or Flop? How the use of a flipped classroom affects grades and major choice.”
(with Joyce B. Main)

“Identifying the Predictors of College Enrollment for High-School Students using Interpretable Machine Learning.” (with Joyce B. Main, Roland Molontay, & Marcell Nagy).

“Predicting STEM major choices: A predictive analysis of HSLs:09.” (with Joyce B. Main, Roland Molontay, & Marcell Nagy).

“Understanding the science/mathematics identity of high-school students based on HSLs:09.” (with Joyce B. Main, Roland Molontay, & Marcell Nagy).

“The factors influencing college enrollment from community colleges to selective four-year institutions.” (with Joyce B. Main, Roland Molontay, & Marcell Nagy).

Grants and Funded Projects

Russell Sage Foundation, “Do Local Admissions Guarantees at In-State Publics Reduce Inequities in College-Going for Black and Hispanic Students? Evidence from the California State University System. Co-Principal Investigator (2025-2028), \$179,620.

National Science Foundation, “Only the Wealthy? Examining how Monetary and Community Cultural Wealth Translate to Engineering Degree Attainment.” Co-Principal Investigator (2022-2025), \$550,701.

National Science Foundation, “An Engineer Like Me.” Co-Principal Investigator (2015-2021), \$247,412.

Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Research Fund Grant. (Wake Forest University) Principal Investigator (2012). \$10,000.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2004-2007).

Other Honors

Best Paper Award for “Remedial Education in Engineering” *American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference* (2022).

Ollen R. McNalley Faculty Fellowship (2017-2020).

“Excellence in Reviewing” for *Economics of Education Review* (2014).

Visiting Scholar to the Department of Economics at Furman University (2012).

NBER Summer Institute: Labor Studies, Fall Education Workshop (2008).

Sage Fellowship for Graduate Studies, Cornell University (2007-2008).

High Honors in Economics, Honors in Biology, Colgate University (2004).

Wall Street Journal Economics Prize, Colgate University (2004).

Conference, Workshop, and Seminar Presentations

- 2025: Association for Education Finance & Policy.
- 2024: Association for Education Finance & Policy.
- 2023: Association for Education Finance & Policy. Davidson Economics department seminar. Distinguished Lecturer for St. John’s.
- 2022: Allied Social Sciences Association. Association for Education Finance & Policy.
- 2021: Association for Education Finance & Policy (online). Western Economic Association (2) (online).
- 2020: Association for Education Finance & Policy (online).
- 2019: Association for Education Finance & Policy. Society of Labor Economists (poster). Southern Economic Association. UNC-Greensboro Economics Seminar. Triangle Economics of Education Workshop.
- 2018: Southern Economic Association.
- 2017: Association for Education Finance & Policy. Ron Ehrenberg Retirement Conference.
- 2016: American Education Finance & Policy. Southern Economic Association.
- 2015: North Carolina State University Microeconomics Seminar. American Education Finance & Policy (by co-author).
- 2014: American Education Finance & Policy. Society of Labor Economists. Southern Economic Association (by co-author).
- 2013: ASSA, American Education Finance & Policy, Society of Labor Economists. Southern Economic Association.
- 2012: American Education & Finance Policy, Society of Labor Economists (poster). University of Georgia, Furman University, Colorado College
- 2011: American Education & Finance Policy, UNC-Greensboro, Elon University, Society of Labor Economists, Southern Economic Association.
- 2010: American Education Finance Association, Cornell Higher Education Research Institute, Houston Higher Education Finance Roundtable, Southern Economic Association.
- 2009 : American Education Finance Association, Society of Labor Economists. Wake Forest University, Bucknell University, Bryn Mawr, Mathematica, Furman University.
- 2008 : American Education Finance Association, Society of Labor Economists, Binghamton University, Cornell University.
- 2007 : American Education Finance Association, Society of Labor Economists.

Referee/Reviewer

Journal of Labor Economics, Economic Journal, Journal of Policy Analysis & Management, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Higher Education, Education Economics, Eastern Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Education, Southern Economic Journal, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, Educational Evaluation & Policy Analysis, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Research in Higher Education, Journal of Applied Econometrics, American Economic Research Journal, National Science Foundation.

Other Service to the Discipline

CeMENT Faculty Mentor (January 2022, June 2025).

Popular Press Contributions

Work summarized in: “New study looks at gender, teaching contracts and grade inflation.” *Phys.org*. Posted June 15, 2021.

Work summarized in “Grade inflation tied to women in insecure teaching roles.” *Times Higher Education*. Authors: Simon Baker, Ellie Bothwell, John Ross, and Susan Bassnett. Published June 9, 2021.

Quoted on: “Taking the Sting out of Tuition.” *Marketplace on American Public Radio*. Piece by Gigi Douban. Aired July 8, 2013.

Work cited in “Private-College Presidents Urge a Commitment to Need-Based Aid” *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Author: Lee Gardner. Published: January 6, 2013.

Quoted in: “U.S. News college rankings: not the only way to judge schools.” *Christian Science Monitor*. Author: Stacy Teicher-Kadaroo. Published: September 13, 2012.

Quoted in: “Emory scandal: Critics doubt college ratings: Misrepresentations emanate from schools’ high-stakes ‘selling’.” *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Authors: Craig Schneider & Laura Diamond. Published: August 26, 2012.

Authored submission: “What if you’re bad at math?” *NYTimes* ‘Room for Debate.’ Published online March 28, 2011.

Quoted in: “College merit aid produces bidding wars.” *The Washington Post*. Author: Daniel De Vise. Published May 30, 2011.

Quoted in: “Ivy league diplomas still worth the price of admission?” *CNBC.com*. Author: Mark Koba. Published March 1, 2011.
Also carried by: *USA Today*

Quoted on: “UC expected to raise tuition.” *Marketplace on American Public Radio*. Piece by David Gura. Aired July 14, 2011.

Teaching

Preparing for Economic Research (Honors class) (Econ 398/399)
Applied Econometrics (Econ 209)
Economics of Higher Education (Econ 394)
Economics of Labor Markets (Econ 335)
Principles of Economics (Econ 150)

Internal Service & Leadership

Wake Forest Business Minor Co-Director (2025-2026)
Wake Forest College participant in ACC Leadership Network (2023-2024)
Vice Chair of Core Planning Team: Wake Forest Strategic Framework (2022-2023)
Chair of Wake Forest Economics Department (July 2021-June 2024).
Associate Chair of Wake Forest Economics Department (July 2017 – June 2021).
Faculty Senator (2021-2023).
College T&P Process ad-hoc chair committee (2021-2022).
Teaching professional ad-hoc chair committee (2021-2023).
Co-Chair of Nominations Committee (2020-2022). (Member 2019-2022).
Chair of Committee on Financial Aid & Scholarships (2021-2022). (Member 2019-2022).
Faculty search chair (2019-2020).
Member of departmental Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2016-present).
Chair of Admissions Committee (2018-2019). (Member 2016-2019).
Joint Admissions Committee member (2016-2019).
Wake West Focus Group (2019).
Best Practices Curriculum Task Force (2016-2017).
Finance Advisory Committee (2017).

Last updated: 8/2026.