

Madison Dell

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Education

Stanford University | PhD, Education: Economics of Education | June 2023 | Dissertation Chair: Eric Bettinger

Stanford University | MA, Economics | June 2022

Stanford University | Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education | October 2021

Louisiana State University | MA, Education: Higher Education Administration | December 2015

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga | BIS, Integrated Studies: Music and Business | August 2014

Relevant Professional Experience

Postdoctoral Researcher

March 2025 – present

University of Zurich, Department of Business Administration

- Conduct empirical projects aligned with the research focus of the Swiss Leading House “Economics of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET Economics)”
- Collaborate with other researchers affiliated with the Leading House, including PhD students, postdocs, and assistant professors at the University of Zurich and the University of Bern
- Contribute to infrastructure tasks of the Leading House, including organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops

Senior Director for Strategic Research Initiatives

July 2022 – March 2025

Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR)

- Managed the design, implementation, and evaluation of 3 grant-funded research projects (\$3.7 million):
 - An [experimental pilot](#) of a comprehensive model of academic advising for recent high school graduates requiring remedial coursework at two Tennessee community colleges
 - An [experimental pilot](#) of a comprehensive model of academic advising and course redesign for new and returning adult learners at two Tennessee community colleges
 - A [mixed methods study](#) of the impact of accelerated course formats, in partnership with Stanford University researchers and three Tennessee community colleges
- Collaborated with internal and external partners to design and test interventions at TBR’s colleges
- Served as the lead evaluator for special research initiatives and communicated research findings to campus partners and external stakeholders

Doctoral Student

September 2019 – June 2023

Stanford University

- Completed coursework in quantitative research methods, including experimental design, quasi-experimental design, and econometrics
- Worked as a Research Assistant for Dr. Eric Bettinger, for whom I managed a data collection team comprising 3 undergraduate research assistants and 1 graduate research assistant
- Served as a Teaching Assistant for Economic Policy Analysis for Policymakers (PUBLPOL 301B) in spring 2020, 2021, and 2022

Planning and Research Analyst

September 2016 – August 2019

Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC)

- Produced annual reports for the state legislature, including [County Higher Education Profiles](#), [Academic Supply and Occupational Demand in Tennessee](#), [Tennessee Promise Annual Report](#), [Articulation and Transfer in Tennessee Higher Education](#)
- Conducted research and data analysis to support evidence-based policymaking and to improve coordination of postsecondary institutions in Tennessee
- Contributed to ad hoc research projects, collaborating with both internal and external partners
- Managed a \$500,000 [Talent, Innovation, and Equity \(TIE\) grant from Lumina Foundation](#) by sub-granting the funds to five public postsecondary institutions in Tennessee

Research Specialist

July 2015 – September 2016

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Office of Academic Affairs

- Provided research support for projects related to student success and retention initiatives, faculty workload, strategic plan implementation, and faculty evaluation
- Co-wrote 2 grant proposals funded by THEC (\$201,998.72)
- Assisted in maintaining continuous compliance with regional accreditation (SACSCOC)
- Managed the implementation and upgrade of a new advising platform as well as the implementation of business analytics software

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Systematic Inquiry (HOD 2500)

Spring 2025

Vanderbilt University, Instructor of Record: Madison Dell

- Taught an introductory research methods course required for all students in the Human and Organizational Development major
- Delivered lectures to a class of 87 undergraduate students
- Managed a team of 3 teaching assistants
- Pivoted to a hybrid modality in which I joined class via Zoom and had guest speakers deliver in-person lectures for the last 5 weeks of class (due to my mid-semester relocation to Switzerland)

Teaching Assistant, Economic Policy Analysis for Policymakers (PUBLPOL 301B)

2020 – 2022

Stanford University, Instructor of Record: Eric Bettinger

- Redesigned the course to be offered online in spring 2020 and spring 2021 (due to COVID)
- Resumed in-person instruction in spring 2022
- Taught a supplemental discussion section once a week to provide additional support for students

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Domingue, B. W., **Dell, M.**, Lang, D., Silverman, R., Yeatman, J., & Hough, H. (2022). The effect of COVID on oral reading fluency during the 2020-2021 academic year. *AERA Open*, 8.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584221120254>

Collier, D. A., Fitzpatrick, D., **Dell, M.**, Snideman, S. S., Marsicano, C. R., Kelchen, R., & Wells, K. E. (2022). We want you back: Uncovering the influences on in-person instructional operations in fall 2020. *Research in Higher Education*, 63(5), 741-767. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-021-09665-5>

Lee, J. L., **Dell, M.**, González Canché, M. S., Monday, A., & Klafehn, A. (2021). The hidden costs of corroboration: Estimating the effects of financial aid verification on college enrollment. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 43(2), 233-252. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0162373721989304>

House, E. A., & **Dell, M.** (2020). Keeping the promise: Early outcomes of Tennessee's tuition-free college initiative. In L. W. Perna & E. J. Smith (Eds.), *Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs* (pp. 151-172). American Educational Research Association. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvxw3phv.10>

Other Publications

Feygin, A., Miller, T., Bettinger, E., & **Dell, M.** (2022, December). Advising for college success: A systematic review of the evidence. *College Completion Network*. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED626933>

Conference Presentations (* indicates the presenting author or authors)

Baker, R., Bettinger, E., **Dell, M.**, Gluek, L.*, Matheny, K. T., Mesa, H. F., & Monday, A. (2024, November 22). *Fast track to success? A mixed methods study of condensed course formats*. Paper presented at the APPAM Fall Research Conference in National Harbor, MD.

Baker, R., Bettinger, E., **Dell, M.**, Gluek, L., Matheny, K. T.*, Mesa, H. F., & Monday, A. (2024, September 21). *Fast track to success? A mixed methods study of condensed course formats*. Paper presented at the SREE 2024 Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Dell, M.*, & Mesa, H. F.* (2024, August 15). *Fast track to success? A mixed methods study of accelerated course formats*. Presentation at the TENNAIR Annual Conference in Murfreesboro, TN.

Baker, R., Bettinger, E., **Dell, M.**, Gluek, L.*, Matheny, K. T.*, Mesa, H. F., & Monday, A. (2024, March 14). *Fast track to success? A mixed methods study of condensed course formats*. Paper presented at the AEFPP Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Dell, M.*, Johnson, A.*, Roberts, S.*, Valentine, J.*, & Williams, T.* (2024, February 20). *Fast track to success? A mixed methods study of accelerated course formats*. Presentation at the DREAM Annual Convening in Orlando, FL.

Dell, M.*, Delle., E.*, DeLoach, C.*, & Moreland, A.* (2024, February 29). *Tennessee Coaching Project*. Presentation at TBR's Advising Academy in Murfreesboro, TN.

Dell, M.*, Delle, E.*, Remaley, M.*, & Shull, W.* (2023, October 6). *Success coaching at community colleges: Early findings from two experimental pilots*. Presentation at the NACADA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

Dell, M.*, Delle., E.*, Coleman, K.*, & Shull, W.* (2023, March 2). *An introduction to the Tennessee Coaching Project: Piloting a new model of student success coaching*. Presentation at TBR's Advising Academy in Murfreesboro, TN.

Backes-Gellner, U., Bettinger, E., **Dell, M.***, & Lehnert, P. (2022, June 16). *The effect of postsecondary institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view*. Paper presented at the First International Leading House Conference on the "Economics of Vocational Education and Training" at the University of Zürich.

- Dell, M.***, & Monday, A. (2022, April 11). *Estimating the impact of PLUS loan policy changes on Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Paper presented at the AEFPP Annual Conference (virtual conference).
- Dell, M.***, & Monday, A. (2022, March 29). *Estimating the impact of community college baccalaureate adoption on college enrollment*. Poster accepted to the APPAM Fall Research Conference in Austin, TX (did not present due to conflict with rescheduled conference dates).
- Collier, D.*, Fitzpatrick, D., **Dell, M.**, Snideman, S., Marsicano, C., & Kelchen, R. (2022, March 27). *We want you back: Uncovering the influences on in-person instructional operations in fall 2020*. Paper presented at the APPAM Fall Research Conference in Austin, TX.
- Collier, D.*, **Dell, M.**, Fitzpatrick, D., Kelchen, R., Marsicano, C., Snideman, S., & Wells, K. (2022, March 18). *Back to business as usual: Applying a previously tested SEM structure shows universities' spring 2021 modality driven by politics, profit*. Paper presented at the AEFPP Annual Conference (in-person conference).
- Dell, M.***, & Monday, A. (2022, March 17). *Estimating the impact of PLUS loan policy changes on Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Paper presented at the AEFPP Annual Conference (in-person conference).
- Backes-Gellner, U., Bettinger, E.*, **Dell, M.**, & Lehnert, P. (2022, March 17). *The effect of postsecondary institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view*. Paper presented at the Colloquium on Personnel Economics in Herning, Denmark.
- Dell, M.***, Collier, D., Snideman, S., Fitzpatrick, D., Kelchen, R., & Marsicano, C. (2021, March 19). *College decisionmakers don't fear the reaper: Using structural equation modeling to uncover the influences of COVID-19, local sociopolitical features, and institutional characteristics on in-person instruction in fall 2020*. Paper presented at the AEFPP Annual Conference (virtual due to COVID).
- Monday, A., & **Dell, M.*** (2020, November 11). *Estimating the impact of PLUS loan policy changes on Historically Black Colleges*. Paper presented at the APPAM Fall Research Conference (virtual due to COVID).
- Monday, A.*, & **Dell, M.** (2019, November 14). *Guiding equity in postsecondary access: The relationship between student-to-counselor ratio and postsecondary enrollment*. Paper presented at the ASHE Annual Conference in Portland, OR.
- Dell, M.***, Martin, C.*, Attridge, J., Klafehn, A., & Monday, A. (2019, November 9). *Estimating the impact of early postsecondary opportunities on student outcomes: Evidence from Tennessee*. Poster presented at the APPAM Fall Research Conference in Denver, CO.
- Dell, M.***, Douglas, B.*, & Wilcox, E.* (2019, August 1). *Following students through the college pipeline: An analysis of the impact of dual enrollment on college outcomes*. Presentation at the TENNAIR Conference in Franklin, TN.
- Dell, M.***, & Klafehn, A.* (2019, June 10). *EPSOs in action: Promoting equitable access and success in dual enrollment*. Presentation at the EPSOs in Action Conference in Nashville, TN.
- González Canché, M. S., **Dell, M.***, Klafehn, A., & Lee, J. C. (2018, November 17). *The cost of corroboration: A comprehensive analysis of FAFSA verification in Tennessee*. Paper presented at the ASHE Annual Conference in Tampa, FL.

Dell, M.* (2017, November 10). *Postsecondary opportunities and outcomes for rural students in Tennessee: Enrollment, retention, and graduation*. Poster presented at the ASHE Annual Conference in Houston, TX.

House, E. A.*, & **Dell, M.** (2017, October 19). *Keeping the promise: Early outcomes of Tennessee's tuition-free college initiative*. Paper presented at Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA.

Benkert, S. M.*, & **Dell, M.*** (2016, December 5). *A case study in supporting adult learners on the pathway to excellence*. Presentation at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Benkert, S. M.*, **Dell, M.***, Ford, D. M., & Potts, G. E. (2016, November 2). *Alternate course delivery as a pathway to excellence for adult learners*. Paper presented at the National Symposium on Student Retention in Norfolk, VA.

Invited Presentations and Guest Lectures (* indicates the presenting author or authors)

Dell, M.* (2025, February 27). *An Introduction to Experimental Design: The Tennessee Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Cara DeLoach's Research in Human Development (HDS 7810) class at Vanderbilt University.

DeLoach, C.* & **Dell, M.*** (2025, January 21). *Data and Research at the Tennessee Board of Regents*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Emily House's Community Colleges, Credentialing, and Vocationalism in Higher Education (HEA 6220) class at Vanderbilt University.

Dell, M.* (2024, October 14). *An Introduction to the Tennessee Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Christine Dickason's Qualitative Research Methods (EDUC 8122) class at George Washington University.

Dell, M.* (2024, February 23). *Strategic Research Initiatives at TBR: Accelerated Courses and the Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Rich Rhoda and Dr. Jill Channing's Spring 2024 Weekend Seminar I for the Certificate in Community College Leadership Program at East Tennessee State University.

Dell, M.* (2023, November 29). *The Tennessee Coaching Project*. Guest lecture delivered in Dr. Eric Bettinger's Experimental Research Design and Analysis (EDUC 430A) class at Stanford University.

Lehnert, P., **Dell, M.**, Backes-Gellner, U., & Bettinger, E.* (2023, November 1). *The effect of postsecondary institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view*. Paper presented at the [Hoover Institution's Economic Policy Working Group](#) at Stanford University.

Dell, M.*, Monday, A., & Gentile, S. (2022, June 29). *Estimating the impact of PLUS loan policy changes on Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Paper presented at the University of Zürich's PhD Discussion Workshop: Personnel Economics and Economics of Education in Laax, Switzerland.

Backes-Gellner, U., Bettinger, E.*, **Dell, M.**, & Lehnert, P. (2022, February 17). *The effect of postsecondary institutions on local economies: A bird's-eye view*. Paper presented at the Swiss Leading House's VPET-Economics "Friday Lunch Talk Series" at the University of Zürich.

Fellowships

- [Stanford Graduate Fellowship in Science and Engineering](#) 2021 – 2024
- Funder: Stanford’s Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, ~\$50,000 per year for 3 years
 - Forfeited years 2 and 3 of funding upon securing full-time employment in July 2022

- [Predoctoral Training Program in Quantitative Education Policy Analysis](#) 2019 – 2021
- Funder: U.S. Department of Education’s Institute for Education Sciences, \$30,000 per year for 2 years

Research Partnerships

- Student Loan Law Initiative Research Grant** June 2022 – present
Principal Investigator: Daniel Collier

- Hired to clean data and conduct correlational analyses describing the relationships between borrower characteristics, enrollment in income-driven repayment for federal student loans, and financial outcomes

- John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities** July 2020 – December 2022
Stanford University

- Hired to clean administrative data, conduct quantitative analyses for a program evaluation, and write a report to communicate findings for an organization offering college scholarships and support to low-income students in the Bay Area
- Hired to clean administrative data and conduct a program evaluation for an organization offering college scholarships and planning supports to high school students in San José

- State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)** December 2020 – October 2021
- Hired to write a report providing descriptive and correlational analyses of the relationships between state authorization policies, institution openings, and institution closures as part of a research initiative funded by Arnold Ventures (<https://bit.ly/3zuknvH>)
 - Hired to write a summary document that synthesizes key findings and themes from seven research papers in a series about state authorization (<https://bit.ly/3zymjDj>)

Professional Development

- [Education Policy Academy](#), American Enterprise Institute 2022
- [Data Modeling and Visualization for State Attainment Goals](#), SHEEO & Gates Foundation 2018
- [National Center for Education Statistics Data Institute](#), Association for Institutional Research 2018

Service

- Conference Proposal Reviewer, DRUID 2023, 2025
- Panelist, ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar 2023 – 2024
- Annual Meeting Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association 2020 – 2021
- Application Reviewer, National Center for Education Statistics Data Institute 2018 – 2020
- Conference Planning Committee & Program Subcommittee, Stanford GSE Student Conference 2020
- Conference Proposal Reviewer, Association for the Study of Higher Education 2018 – 2019
- Session Chair, Association for the Study of Higher Education 2018
- Committee Co-Chair, We All Rise: The Biennial Conference on Equity and Completion 2018