
Richard W. Patterson

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Academic Appointments and Affiliations

Assistant Professor of Economics, Brigham Young University, Beginning July 2021.
Assistant Professor of Economics, United States Military Academy at West Point, 2015-2021.
Long-Run Research Coordinator, Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis, 2018-Present.
IZA Research Affiliate, 2018-Present.
CESifo Research Network Affiliate, 2017-Present.
WGU Labs Research Advisory Council, 2020-Present.

Education

Ph.D., Policy Analysis & Management, Cornell University, 2015.
M.A., Policy Analysis & Management, Cornell University, 2014.
B.A., Economics, Brigham Young University, 2009.

Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Behavioral Economics, Economics of Education, Labor Economics.

Research

Peer Reviewed Publications

[“Why Have College Completion Rates Increased?”](#) *With Jeff Denning, Eric Eide, Kevin Mumford, and Merrill Warnick. Conditionally Accepted at American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.*

[“Attribution Bias in Major Decisions: Evidence from Major Choice at the United States Military Academy.”](#) *With Kareem Haggag, Nolan Pope, and Aaron Feudo. Journal of Public Economics. Forthcoming*

[“Timing Matters: Evidence from College Major Decisions.”](#) *With Nolan Pope and Aaron Feudo. Journal of Human Resources. Forthcoming.*

[“Low-Touch Attempts to Improve Time Management among Traditional and Online College Students.”](#) *With Phillip Oreopoulos, Uros Petronijevic, and Nolan Pope. Journal of Human Resources. Forthcoming.*

“Nudges Don’t Work When the Benefits Are Ambiguous: Evidence from a High-Stakes Education Program.” *With Benjamin Castleman, Francis Murphy, and William Skimmyhorn. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Forthcoming.*

“How Much to Save? Decision Costs and Retirement Plan Participation.” *With Jacob Goldin, Tatiana Homonoff, and William Skimmyhorn. Journal of Public Economics. 2020.*

“Benefits left on the table: Evidence from the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act.” *With Benjamin Castleman and William Skimmyhorn. Economics of Education Review. 2019.*

“Can Behavioral Tools Improve Online Student Outcomes? Experimental Evidence from a Massive Open Online Course.” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization. 2018.*

“Computers and Productivity: Evidence from Laptop Use in the College Classroom.” *With Robert Patterson. Economics of Education Review. 2017.*

“Charter School Unionization and Student Outcomes.” *With Jordan Matsudaira. Economics of Education Review. 2017.*

“Could Trends in Time Children Spend with Parents Help Explain the Black-White Gap in Human Capital? Evidence from the American Time Use Survey.” *Education Economics. 2017.*

“Reputation Tapping.” *With Bradley Rickard and Jill McCluskey. European Agricultural Economic Review. 2015.*

Other Publications

“The Competitive Effects of Online Education.” *With David Deming and Michael Lovenheim. Productivity in Higher Education (Caroline Hoxby and Kevin Stange, Eds.) Also published as NBER Working Paper No. 22749.*

“Innovation in Education.” *With Jordan Matsudaira. Dominic Brewer and Lawrence Picus, editors. Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance. Sage Publications. 2014.*

Working Papers

“Army Service in the All-Volunteer Era.” *With Kyle Greenberg, Matthew Gudgeon, Adam Isen, and Corbin Miller. [Draft Available Upon Request]*

Ongoing Projects

“How do Behavioral Approaches to Increase Savings Compare? Evidence from Multiple Interventions in the U.S. Army.” *With William Skimmyhorn.*

“Parental Absence and Human Capital Development: Evidence from Quasi-Random Deployments.” *With Andrew Johnston and David Lyle.*

Fellowships, Grants, & Awards

- 2014-2015 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2014 Russell Sage Foundation. Small Grants in Behavioral Economics. \$6,000.
- 2014 Cornell Population Center Rapid Response Grant. \$800.
- 2012 Cornell Institute for Social Science Small Grants Program. *With Jordan Matsudaira.* \$10,000.
- 2009 Brigham Young University Office of Research and Creative Activities (ORCA) student grant. \$1,500.
- 2007 Brigham Young University Introductory Economics Teaching Assistant of the Semester.

Professional Service

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economics of Education Review, Economic Inquiry, Education Economics, Education Finance and Policy, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Public Economics, Management Science.*

Presentations

- 2021 AEA ASSA Annual Meeting, Florida State University
- 2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management; Brigham Young University; NBER Summer Institute-Labor Studies; NBER Summer Institute- National Security (coauthor presented); E-Con of Education Virtual Seminar; University of Maryland; University of Utah; Utah State University (cancelled); Vassar College
- 2019 University of California, San Diego; University of Oregon; United States Air Force Academy; Association for Education Finance and Policy; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management; Society of Labor Economics;
- 2018 Brigham Young University; Northeast Economics of Education Workshop; Southern Economics Association; University of Alaska; University of Pittsburgh; Western Economics Association.
- 2017 APPAM; Wesleyan University; Western Economic Association Meetings.
- 2016 Association for Education Finance and Policy Meetings; Western Economic Association Meetings; NBER Higher Education Productivity Conference (co-author presented); Ideas42; Northeast Economics of Education Workshop.
- 2015 Analysis Group; Cornell University; Mathematica; Southern Economics Association; United States Military Academy; American Education Research Association Meetings (poster).
- 2014 BYU Graduate Student Conference; Utah State University; Western Economic Association.
- 2013 Western Economic Association.
- 2011 AAEA-Behavioral Economics & Child Nutrition; American Marketing Association.