

Zed Higgs

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EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park <i>PhD Candidate in Behavioral/Experimental Economics</i> Dissertation: Increasing Charitable Donations Using Subsidies: Theory and Experiments	Aug 2017 – Present
Washington State University <i>B.S. in Economics, magna cum laude</i> 2017 <i>Outstanding Senior of the Year</i> in Quantitative Economics	Sept 2014 – May 2017 GPA: 3.8/4.0

AWARDS

National Science Foundation <i>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in Economics (Award No. 2315706)</i>	2023
University of Maryland <i>Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant</i>	2022
<i>The Bruce and Mary Ann Gardner Dissertation Enhancement Award</i>	2020
<i>The Bessie H. DeVault Award for the best paper by a second-year student</i>	2019
<i>Dean's Fellowship</i>	2017 – 2022
Washington State University <i>Outstanding Senior of the Year in Quantitative Economics</i>	2017
<i>President's Honor Roll</i>	2014 – 2017

SKILLS

Methods: Experimental Design, Causal Analysis, A/B Testing, Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Models, Discrete Choice Models, Simulation, Applied Statistics, Econometrics, Panel Data, Time Series, Economic Theory
Causal Inference: Diff-in-Diffs, Regression Discontinuity (Fuzzy and Sharp), Instrumental Variables, Synthetic Controls
Machine Learning: Regularization, Ensemble Methods (Boosting and Bagging), Cross-Validation, Hypothesis Testing
Languages: Python, Matlab, Stata, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, L^AT_EX
Tools: Qualtrics, Anaconda, Jupyter Notebook

PROJECTS

Increasing Charitable Giving Using Subsidies

- Designed experiments and surveys to study how donors respond to subsidies for giving
- Conducted experiments online using Qualtrics, recruiting subjects via ORSEE and Prolific
- Used Tobit regression models to estimate rebate- and match-price elasticities of the demand for giving
- Found that rebates and matches are equivalent (contrary to previous research), but donor behavior responds to changes in the probability of receiving a subsidy

The Effect of Federal Student Aid Funding on the Market for Higher Education

- Developed a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model of the market for higher education to simulate the impact of an increase in federal student aid funding on university expenditures/characteristics
- Built model to include heterogeneous consumers (students) and producers (schools)
- Model is parameterized to successfully replicate key market characteristics and baseline behavior
- Found that an increase in aid causes lower quality private schools to shift expenditures toward luxury items

EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland <i>Instructor</i> • Taught undergraduate courses at UMD (AREC240 and AREC250)	2021 – 2023
University of Maryland <i>Research Assistant</i> • Verified theoretical results, edited manuscripts, and conducted experiments to collect data	2017 – 2021
StudentEdge Painting <i>Senior Branch Manager</i> • Managed all aspects of business, including marketing, sales, production, and payroll • Interviewed, hired, and managed a marketing team, resulting in the largest number of cold-call leads and estimates given for the US division of the company • Interviewed, hired, and trained crew members, successfully completing around \$100,000 of paintwork	2013 – 2014