

Matthew Naven

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

Department of Economics
213 Huntley Hall
204 W Washington St
Lexington, VA 24450

mnaven@wlu.edu
www.matthewnaven.com
540-458-8610

Employment

Education Studies Affiliated Faculty Member: Washington and Lee University	2019-
Assistant Professor of Economics: Washington and Lee University	2019-
Research Assistant: Drs. Scott Carrell, Michal Kurlaender, and Paco Martorell	2015-2018
Research Assistant: Dr. Marianne Bitler	2015
Teaching Assistant: University of California, Davis	2013-2015

Education

University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Economics	2019
M.A. Economics	2014

Dissertation Committee

Scott Carrell (Chair)	Marianne Bitler	Shu Shen
secarrell@ucdavis.edu	bitler@ucdavis.edu	shushen@ucdavis.edu
Professor	Professor	Associate Professor
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
University of California, Davis	University of California, Davis	University of California, Davis

Xavier University

B.A. Economics, B.A. Spanish, University Scholar, Minor in Mathematics	2013
<i>Magna cum Laude</i>	
Economics Capstone: <i>The Effects of Proposition 209 on California Public Post-Secondary Enrollments</i>	
Spanish Thesis: <i>¿Preparados? El desempleo juvenil en España</i>	

Research Interests

Public, Labor, Education

Working Papers

Human Capital Formation During Childhood and Adolescence: Evidence from School Quality and Post-secondary Success in California

This paper investigates the role of school quality in human capital formation. Specifically, I investigate how the timing of school quality differentially affects long-run outcomes. Using individual-level data on the universe of public school students in California, I estimate elementary, middle, and high school quality using a value added methodology that accounts for the fact that students sort to schools on observable characteristics. I then determine the impact of school quality on future K-12 and post-secondary outcomes. I find that high school quality has the largest impact on postsecondary enrollment, while elementary and middle school quality play a larger role in college readiness. In other words, early human capital investments are important for future post-secondary success, but the unique timing of the college decision process allows for later human capital investments to also play a significant role.

Within-School Heterogeneity in Quality: Do Schools Provide Equal Value Added to All Students?

Low-socioeconomic status (SES), minority, and male students perform worse than their high-SES, non-minority, and female peers on standardized tests. This paper investigates how within-school differences in school quality contribute to these educational achievement gaps by SES, ethnicity, and sex. Using individual-level data on the universe of public school students in California, I estimate school quality using a value added methodology that accounts for the fact that students sort to schools on observable characteristics. I run three separate analyses, in which I allow each school to provide a distinct value added to their low-/high-SES, minority/non-minority, and male/female students. I find that there is within-school heterogeneity in value added by SES, ethnicity, and sex, as on average schools provide less value added to their low-SES, minority, and male students. Thus within-school heterogeneity in quality is one factor that contributes to differential outcomes for disadvantaged students.

The Effects of Affirmative Action Bans on Postsecondary Education

Since 1965, affirmative action programs have required public universities to give extra consideration to underrepresented minority applicants. I estimate the impact of eight states banning affirmative action on postsecondary school enrollments and graduation rates using an event study methodology. I also employ a generalized difference in differences strategy that applies the event study analysis and adds nonselective universities in treated states as a control group. Estimates suggest that banning affirmative action significantly decreases minority enrollments, especially at selective universities. These estimates are large in magnitude — enrollment at selective universities dropped by over 20% for minority students. While less conclusive, results suggest that graduation rates were essentially unaffected. Falsification tests show that private universities and community colleges, which should not be affected by affirmative action bans, were not similarly affected.

Recognition and Performance: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity in College Football (with Lester Lusher)

A growing literature has investigated the impacts of informing agents about their relative performance and rank on effort and performance. We study the impact of national recognition in NCAA football on a team's future performance. Identification comes from utilizing a regression discontinuity design where within weeks we compare teams that received recognition against those which just barely did not receive recognition. In addition, the threshold for national recognition adjusts weekly which allows us to use across-week comparisons of similar teams. Across a variety of specifications, we find that team recognition significantly boosts a team's likelihood of winning the following week. Placebo tests on alternate rankings show no effect, further suggesting a true impact of team recognition.

Work in Progress

The Impact of School Quality on Postsecondary Success: Evidence in the Era of Common Core (with Scott Carrell, Michal Kurlaender, and Paco Martorell)

What's My Age Again? The Dynamic Effect of Your Age Relative to Your Peers (with Michel Grosz)

Sample Choice for Event Studies with Secular Time Trends (with Michel Grosz)

Reports and Policy Briefs

Michal Kurlaender, Sherrie Reed, Kramer Cohen, Matthew Naven, Paco Martorell, and Scott Carrell. Where California high school students attend college. Technical report, Policy Analysis for California Education, 2018

Memberships and Affiliations

Phi Beta Kappa
Alpha Sigma Nu
Sigma Delta Pi
California Education Lab
UC Davis Center for Poverty Research

Honors and Awards

Lenfest Summer Fellowship Award	2020
Roe L. Johns Travel Grant	2019
Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Educational Foundation Dissertation Writing Fellowship	2018-2019
Graduate Fellowship, UC Davis	2016
Department of Economics and the Institute for Social Sciences Summer Travel Award, UC Davis	2015-2016
Nonresident Tuition Fellowship, UC Davis	2013-2014
Department of Economics Award, Xavier University	2013
St. Francis Xavier Scholarship, Xavier University	2009-2013

Presentations

2020 (Including Scheduled)

Association for Education Finance and Policy, Western Economic Association International

2019

Analysis Group, Cornerstone Research, Kennesaw State University, IMPAQ International, Federal Communications Commission, Washington and Lee University, Association for Education Finance and Policy (Poster), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management CA Regional Student Conference, California Department of Education

2018

Association for Education Finance and Policy; University of Nevada, Reno; All-California Labor Economics Conference (Poster); Sonoma State University; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2017

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Internal

UC Davis Applied Microeconomics Brown Bag: Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Winter 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Winter 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
UC Davis Economics Alumni Conference: 2019 (Poster), 2020

Professional Service

Referee

The Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

Session Chair

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting: 2019

Reviewer

Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference: 2017, 2019

Teaching Experience

Instructor

- Washington and Lee University
 - * ECON 250 Public Finance & Public Policy, Winter 2020
 - * ECON 100 Introduction to Economics, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant

- University of California, Davis
 - * ECN 1A Principles of Microeconomics, Summer Session II 2015

- * ECN 140 Econometrics, Spring 2015
- * ECN 100 Intermediate Micro Theory, Winter 2015
- * ECN 130 Public Microeconomics, Fall 2014
- * ECN 151A Economics of the Labor Market, Summer Session I 2014
- * ECN 103 Economics of Uncertainty and Information, Spring 2014
- * ECN 1B Principles of Macroeconomics, Winter 2014
- * ECN 1A Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2013

Service

Applied Microeconomics Brown Bag Seminar Organizer, UC Davis	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Student Research Seminar Organizer, UC Davis	Winter 2017
Graduate Student Association, Economics Vice President, UC Davis	2015-2016
Graduate Student Association, Economics Member, UC Davis	2014-2015
Graduate Mentor, UC Davis	2014-2016

Other Skills

Languages

English (native), Spanish (advanced)

Computer skills

Stata, Python, R, Git, L^AT_EX

Citizenship

United States of America

Last updated: March 20, 2020