

Heather Little

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics , University of Wisconsin–Madison	2021–2027
M.Sc. Economics , University of Wisconsin–Madison	2021–2023
M.Sc. Economics , University College London	2020–2021
B.A. Economics and Sociology , New York University	2014–2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Fields: Public Economics, Labor Economics

Topics: Higher Education, College Access, Postsecondary Choice, Labor Markets

WORKING PAPERS

- The Wisconsin Guarantee: A Top Percent Policy’s Impact on Flagship Access
- Unstably-Housed Students & School Suspension
- The Role of Student Debt on Major Choice and Labor Market Outcomes (*with Andrew Smith & Annemarie Schweinert*)
- Quantifying Non-Sampling Variation (*with Jeff Smith & Lois Miller*)
- Expanding Income-Eligibility for a Tuition Promise (*with Mikhail Kouliavtsev*)
- College’s Labor Market Strength & Effects on Earnings

AWARDS AND HONORS

- IRP Dissertation Research Fellowship (2026-2027)
- Interdisciplinary Training Program in Educational Sciences, UW–Madison (2021–2027)
- JPGI Teaching Award, Economics Department (Spring 2024, Fall 2025)
- Data Funding Grant, UW–Madison Economics Dept (Winter 2024, Fall 2024)
- Graduate Student Research Grants Competition Award (Winter 2024)
- Department of Economics Conference Scholarship (2023-2025)
- Research Travel Grants, Institute for Research on Poverty (2023–2025)
- Graduation with Distinction, UCL (2021)
- Dissertation Earning Highest Marks, UCL (2021)
- Magna cum Laude, NYU (2018)
- Presidential Honors Scholar, NYU (2016–2018)
- Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange, US State Dept. (2013–2014)

AFFILIATIONS

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2025–2026)
- American Economic Association (2025–2026)
- Student Success Through Applied Research Lab (2024–2026)
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (2023–2026)
- Wisconsin Center for Education Research (2021–2026)
- Institute for Research on Poverty (2022–2026)

PRESENTATIONS

2026

- Research to Action IRP Workshop* (Jul)
- IRP Summer Research Workshop* (Jun)
- UW–Madison Public Student Seminar (Apr, Jun)
- Association for Education Finance and Policy* (Mar)

2025

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Nov)
- UW–Madison Public Student Seminar (Apr, Jul, Oct)
- Research to Action IRP Workshop* (Jul)
- IRP Summer Research Workshop* (Jun)
- UW–Madison Economics Alumni Conference* (Apr)
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (Mar)
- Eastern Economic Association (Feb)

2024

- UW–Madison Public Student Seminar (Jun, Dec)
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (Mar)

2023

- UW–Madison Public Student Seminar (Jul, Oct)
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (Mar)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Economics of Education, Principal Instructor (4.9/5) (Fall 2025)
- Intro Microeconomics, Distinguished TA (4.9/5) (Spring 2024)
- Intro Microeconomics, Distinguished TA (4.7/5) (Fall 2023)
- Teach for America, Appalachia Corps – Math Teacher (2018–2020)
- Volunteer and Private Tutor

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Cohort Representative, WEGO, UW–Madison (2023–2026)
- Peer Mentor, UW–Madison (2022–2026)
- Wisconsinites for Inclusion and Diversity in Economics, UW–Madison (2022–2026)
- Undergraduate Outreach, WIDE, UW–Madison (2023–2026)
- Summer Research Retreat Organizer (Jul 2023)
- Economics Department Social Co-Chair (2022–2023)
- Student Representative, UCL (2021–2022)

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: English (fluent), German (conversational)

Coding Skills: Stata, Julia, R, MATLAB, Python

Additional: Secure data experience (PSID, NLSY97, ELS:2002, Texas Schools Project, WI Administrative Data Core, University Administrative Records); Curriculum development; Grant writing

REFERENCES

Jeffrey Smith, Dissertation Committee Chair

John Kennan, Dissertation Committee

Martin O'Connell, Dissertation Committee

Taylor Odle, Dissertation Committee

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Poster presentations, *.