

Matthew J. Capaldi

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Education

- Ph.D.** Higher Education Administration Summer 2025 (Expected)
University of Florida, FL
Minor – Urban and Regional Planning
Dissertation – *The Route to Retention: A Quasi-Experimental Analysis of the Link Between Transit Stop Proximity and First Year Retention Rates at US Commuter Colleges*
- M.Ed.** Research and Evaluation Methodology Fall 2024
University of Florida, FL
Final Project – *A Time and Place for (Sustainable) Campus Planning: Using Structural Topic Modeling to Explore Variations in Planning Priorities at Large US Public Colleges*
- M.Ed.** Student Personnel in Higher Education Spring 2020
University of Florida, FL
- B.A.** International Relations with Political Science Summer 2018
University of Birmingham, UK
Year Abroad: Providence College, RI

Teaching Experience

- EDH 7916: Contemporary Research in Higher Education** – “The R Class” – University of Florida
Co-Instructor Spring 2025
Co-Instructor Spring 2024
– Took over most of the teaching responsibility following previous instructor’s resignation
– Course content available to view on [my class website](#)
“In addition to knowing the subject matter so well, Matt also exhibited a passion for teaching which carried into the classroom. The lectures were engaging and Matt seemed to have a genuine desire to help all of us in the class succeed.” – Course Evaluation
Teaching Assistant Spring 2023
- 1:1 Stata & Data Wrangling Tutoring** – University of Florida Fall 2024
- Automating Data Retrieval for Enhanced Reproducibility** – Conference Workshop November 2024

Published Work

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Capaldi, M. J.**, & Shin, J. (under review). A time and place for (sustainable) campus planning: using structural topic models to explore variations in planning priorities at large us public colleges. *Research in Higher Education*.
- Hu, X., Fernandez, F., & **Capaldi, M.** (under review). Growing Outcomes in the Garden State: Examining Community College Merit Aid, Enrollment, Completion, and Transfer. *Community College Review*.
- Hu, X., Fernandez, F., Qiu, Y., & **Capaldi, M.** (2024). The good, the bad, and the balanced: a typology of state merit-aid programs for community college students. *Community College Review*, 52(3), 289–314.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00915521241238753>

Capaldi, M. J. (2023). The route to graduation: an exploration of the association between transit stop proximity and pell recipient completion rates at us commuter colleges. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15210251231156421>

Reports

Fernandez, F., Hu, X., & **Capaldi, M.** (2023). *Exploring equitable public higher education funding models in Illinois*. Partnership for College Completion. <https://partnershipfcc.org/publications/adequacy/>

Commentary Articles

Capaldi, M. J. (2021, December 1). Ensuring equitable public safety responses in college towns. *American City and County*. <https://www.americancityandcounty.com/2021/12/01/ensuring-equitable-public-safety-responses-in-college-towns/>

Fernandez, F., & **Capaldi, M. J.** (2021, October 25). Studying political science motivates college students to register and vote – new research shows. *The Conversation*. <http://theconversation.com/studying-political-science-motivates-college-students-to-register-and-vote-new-research-shows-168440>

Software

Capaldi, M. J. (2024). *IPEDtaS: Automagically Download Labeled .dta IPEDS Files in Stata and R*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13388846>

Conference Presentations

Workshops

Capaldi, M. J. (2024, November 22). *Automating data retrieval for enhanced reproducibility: using Stata and R to “automagically” download labeled IPEDS data*. ASHE: Association for the Study of Higher Education. <https://capaldi.info/ASHE24/>

Paper Presentations

Capaldi, M. J., & Shin, J. (accepted). *Time and place for (sustainable) planning: a structural topic model analysis of campus master plans*. AERA: American Educational Research Association.

Hu, X., Fernandez, F., & **Capaldi, M. J.** (accepted). *With a Few Dollars More: Examining Community College Merit Aid, Enrollment, and Transfer*. AERA: American Educational Research Association.

Capaldi, M. J. (2024, November 21). *The route to retention: an analysis of transit stop proximity and urban commuter college retention*. ASHE: Association for the Study of Higher Education. <https://capaldi.info/ASHE24/>

Hu, X., Fernandez, F., Qiu, Y., & **Capaldi, M. J.** (2023, April 13). *A typology of state merit aid programs for community college students*. AERA: American Educational Research Association.

Employment History

Graduate Assistant & Fellow University of Florida, FL	August 2021 – Present
Residence Hall Coordinator University of Missouri, MO	July 2020 – May 2021
Graduate Community Coordinator University of Florida, FL	July 2019 – May 2020
Summer Sessions Graduate Intern Georgetown University, DC	May 2019 – July 2019
Graduate Assistant University of Florida	August 2018 – May 2019

Advising Intern

US-UK Fulbright Commission

January 2018 – June 2018

Student Ambassador

University of Birmingham

January 2015 – June 2018

Funding

\$1,000	Dr. Barbara Keener Dissertation Award University of Florida	2024
\$2,500	Lincoln and Lillian Hall Fellowship in Memory of Albert G. Hall University of Florida	2024
\$2,000	Patricia D. Conroy Endowed Scholarship University of Florida	2023
\$31,000 & Tuition	Graduate School Funding Award University of Florida	2021 – 2025

Certifications

[Intermediate PostgreSQL](#) – University of Michigan

February 2025

[Database Design and Basic SQL in PostgreSQL](#) – University of Michigan

December 2024

Technical Skills

Regression-Based Analysis

- Linear Regression
- Logistic Regression
- Fixed Effects Regression
- Cox Proportional Hazards
- Bayesian Regression

Psychometrics & Latent Variables

- Classical Test Theory
- Factor Analysis
- Item Response Theory
- Basic Computational Psychometrics
- Structural Equation Modeling

Machine Learning Models

- Random Forests
- Neural Networks

Spatial Statistics

- Spatial Projections & Mapping
- Distance Calculation
- Clusters & Hot-Spots
- Interpolation
- Geographically Weighted Regression

Quasi-Experimental Designs

- Propensity Scores
- Instrumental Variables
- Difference in Differences
- Regression Discontinuity
- Entropy Balancing

Natural Language Processing

- Structural Topic Modeling
- Text Classification & Clustering



R

Shiny

Shiny



Python



Git



SQL



Microsoft Office



Stata

SPSS

SPSS



Qualtrics



GIS



Typst



Quarto & Rmd