

WALTER G. ECTON

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
College of Education | Florida State University
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Last Updated July 2023

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

June 2022-current

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Visiting Assistant Professor of Education Policy

August 2021-May 2022

EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, *PhD, Leadership and Policy Studies*

Awarded Summer 2021

Dissertation Title: *Three essays on career and technical education*

Paper 1: Trade-Offs in High School Curricular Choices for Career and Technical Education Students

Paper 2: Framing Public Opinion Towards Career and Technical Education

Paper 3: Heterogeneity in the Trajectories of Career and Technical Education Students

Dissertation Committee: Shaun M. Dougherty (chair), Celeste K. Carruthers, William R. Doyle, Carolyn J. Heinrich

Awards: Graduate Honor Scholarship

Peabody Dean's Fellowship

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS (Scotland), *Master of Letters in Peace and Conflict Studies*

Awarded November 2012

Award: Robert T. Jones Memorial Scholarship for full tuition, room and board (one of four students selected from Emory University's graduating class)

EMORY UNIVERSITY, *Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Theater Studies*

Awarded May 2010

Awards: Emory College 2010 Class Orator

Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society)

100 Senior Honorary

Alpha Psi Omega (Theater Honor Society)

Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honor Society)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Ecton, Walter G. & Dougherty, Shaun M. (2023). Heterogeneity in High School Career and Technical Education Outcomes. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis (EPPA)*. Advance online publication.

Ecton, Walter G.; Heinrich, Carolyn J.; Carruthers, Celeste. (2023). Earning to Learn: Working While Enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities. *AERA Open*.

Soliz, Adela & Ecton, Walter G. (2023). Did the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act improve and expand vocational training at community colleges? *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis (EPPA)*.

Anglum, J. C., Diemer, A. R., Ecton, W. G., & Nguyen, T. D. (2023). We need to know more about CTE teachers. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 104(6), 18-23.

Ecton, W. (in press). Framing Parents' Attitudes Toward Career and Technical Education. *Education Policy Analysis Archives (EPAA)*.

Dougherty, Shaun M.; Ecton, Walter G.; Bonilla, Sade; McGuinness, Sophie (2022). The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Recession on Career Preparation During High School. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 97(3), 326-343.

Ansel, Dana; Dougherty, Shaun M.; Ecton, Walter G., Holden, Kristian; Theobald, Roddy (2022). Student Interest and Equitable Access to Career and Technical Education High Schools of Choice, *Journal of School Choice*. Advance online publication.

Atwell, Adam; Miller, Sabrina; Ecton, Walter G.; Sublett, Cameron; D'Amico, Mark. (2022). Navigating Changes in Economic and Policy Environments: Community Colleges Aligning Workforce Education with Local Labor Markets. *New Directions for Community Colleges Advocacy for Change*, 197, 45-58.

Ecton, Walter G.; Bennett, Christopher; Nienhuser, H. Kenny; Castillo-Montoya, Milagros; Dougherty, Shaun M. (2021). If You Fund Them, Will They Come? Implications From a PhD Fellowship Program on Racial/Ethnic Student Diversity. *AERA Open*, 7(23328584211040485).

Ecton, Walter G. & Dzieszinski, Amberly. (2021). Using Punctuated Equilibrium to Understand Patterns of Institutional Budget Change in Higher Education. *The Journal of Higher Education*, 93(3), 424-451.

Dougherty, Shaun M. & Ecton, Walter G. (2021). The economic effect of vocational education on student outcomes. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*. Oxford University Press.

Sublett, Cameron; Ecton, Walter G.; Atwell, Adam; D'Amico, Mark; Miller, Sabrina. (2021) Community College Alignment of Workforce Education and Local Labor Markets. *Journal of Applied Research in the Community College*, 28(1), 13-29.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Bonilla, S., Ecton, W., & Dougherty, S. (in press). Career and technical education: History, Theory, Evidence, and the Path Ahead. In Lora Cohen-Vogel, Janelle Scott, & Peter Youngs (Eds.), *AERA Handbook of Education Policy Research*, 2nd Edition. New York.

Ecton, Walter G. (2023). The Economic Value of Career and Technical Education for Traditionally Underserved Students. *Economics of Equity*, (Goldy Brown & Christopher Makridis, eds).

BOOK REVIEW

Ecton, Walter G. (Forthcoming, Spring 2021). Book Review: Understanding Community Colleges (J.S. Levin & S.T Kater, 2018). *Community College Review*, 49(1), 98-101.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Ecton, Walter G., Heinrich, Carolyn J., & Carruthers, Celeste K. (2023, January 11). College Students Who Work More Hours are Less Likely to Graduate. (2023, January 11). *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/college-students-who-work-more-hours-are-less-likely-to-graduate-196183>

Ecton, Walter G. & Dougherty, Shaun M. (2021, October 18). Focus on Finances to Promote Doctoral Student Diversity. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2021/10/18/focus-on-finances-to-promote-doctoral-student-diversity/>.

Dougherty, Shaun M. & Ecton, Walter G. (2021, September 28). How Better Funding Can Increase the Number and Diversity of Doctoral Students. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-better-funding-can-increase-the-number-and-diversity-of-doctoral-students-166711>.

MEDIA MENTIONS & INTERVIEWS

“5 Ways Schools Can Make Career Prep Programs More Rigorous and Equitable” (2023, April 12). *EducationWeek*. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/5-ways-schools-can-make-career-prep-programs-more-rigorous-and-equitable/2023/04>

“How Career Prep Programs Went From ‘Dumping Ground’ to ‘Top Priority.’” (2023, April 10). *EducationWeek*. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/how-career-prep-programs-went-from-dumping-ground-to-top-priority/2023/04>

“International Students also Learn outside of Class.” (2023, January 28). *Voice of America*. <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/international-students-also-learn-outside-of-class/6934588.html>

“Proof Points: Shop Class Sometime Boosts College-Going, Massachusetts Study Finds: College-versus-earnings tradeoff for construction and other fields.” (2022, September 19). *The Hechinger Report*. <https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-shop-class-sometimes-boosts-college-going-massachusetts-study-finds/>

“Multiple Positive Outcomes for CTE Students.” (2022, September 15). *Thomas B. Fordham Institute*. <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/multiple-positive-outcomes-cte-students>

PODCASTS

“Dr. Walt Ecton of FSU on Career & Technical Education.” (May 17, 2023). Future of Work Florida Podcast, Florida Chamber of Commerce. <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1965481.rss>

“How effective are Career and Technical Education programs?” (January 12, 2022). American Enterprise Institute’s The Report Card Podcast. <https://www.aei.org/podcast/how-effective-are-career-and-technical-education-programs/>

“Research & Tech Talk: Heterogeneity in High School Career and Technical Education Outcomes” (July 19, 2023) NAF Career Academics. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS6jsRNaiZc>

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Carruthers, Celeste K; Ecton, Walter G.; Heinrich, Carolyn J. (2020). *Earning to Learn: Working While Enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities*. Research brief for Tennessee Postsecondary Evaluation and Analysis Research Lab.

Ansel, Dana; Chen, Bingjie; Dougherty, Shaun M.; Ecton, Walter G.; Goldhaber, Dan; Holden, Kristian; Theobald, Roddy. (2020). *Career and Technical Education and Postsecondary Student Outcomes in Massachusetts: Career Clusters and Student Groups, Teacher Licensure, and Student Entry*. Research brief for Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Dougherty, Shaun; Macdonald, Isabel Harbaugh; Ecton, Walter G.; Kreisman, Daniel. (2020). *Increasing Individuals’ Economic Stability through Massachusetts’ Career and Technical Education*. Georgia Policy Labs Working Papers.

WORKING PAPERS

Ecton, Walter G.; Gottfried, Michael A.; Zenoni, Kathryn B. How Career and Technical Education Differs Across Urban, Suburban, and Rural Schools.

Nguyen, T. D., Ecton, W. G; Diemer, A. R., Anglum, J. C. A Descriptive Profile of Career and Technical Education Teachers.

Ecton, Walter G.; Dougherty, Shaun M., McGuinness, Sophie. Gender Differences in Labor Market Returns to High School Career and Technical Education.

Ecton, Walter G. Political Representation and the Distribution of Federal Spending to Institutions of Higher Education.

Ecton, Walter G. Exploring the Relationship Between College Attendance and Access to College Counseling in High School.

Ecton, Walter G. Trade-Offs in High School Curricular Choices for Career and Technical Education Students.

GRANTS AWARDED

- Ecton, W. (PI), & Harbatkin, E.(Co-PI). (2023–2024). Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century Act Perkins V (2023–2024). Funded by Florida Department of Education. Total award \$200,000.
- Ecton, W. (PI). First Year Assistant Professor Grant. (2023). Funded by Florida State University. Total award \$20,000.
- Ecton, W. (PI). Dissertation Enhancement Grant. (2020). Funded by the Russell G. Hamilton Graduate Leadership Institute. Total award \$2,000.
- Ecton, W. (PI). Bridging the Gaps in Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Research Fellowship. (2019-20). Funded by the ECMC Foundation. Total award \$10,000.

AWARDS & HONORS

Outstanding Beginning Scholar, Association of Career and Technical Education Research	2022
Outstanding Reviewer for Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis (EEPA)	2022
Fordham Institute/American Enterprise Institute Emerging Education Policy Scholar	2021-2022
Josh Bleiberg Award for Service to the Department (Peabody College)	2021
Outstanding Research Paper at the Association of Career and Technical Education Research Conference	2021
Outstanding Research Paper at the Association of Career and Technical Education Research Conference	2020
UCEA/AERA David L. Clark Scholar in K-12 Educational Administration and Policy	2020
American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Education Policy Academy Participant	2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Ecton, Walter G.; Dougherty, Shaun M., McGuinness, Sophie. (2022). Gender Differences in Labor Market Returns to High School Career and Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association* (AERA). San Diego, CA.
- Ecton, Walter G.; Gottfried, Michael G.; Zenoni, Kathryn B. (2022). How Career and Technical Education Differs Across Urban, Suburban, and Rural Schools. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Public Policy and Management* (APPAM). Austin, TX
- Ecton, Walter G.; Heinrich, Carolyn J.; Carruthers, Celeste K. (2022). Earning to Learn: Working While Enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Public Policy and Management* (APPAM). Austin, TX.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2021). Trade-Offs in High School Curricular Choices for Career and Technical Education Students. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Career and Technical Education Research* (ACTER). New Orleans, LA.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2021). Trade-Offs in High School Curricular Choices for Career and Technical Education Students. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Southern Economics Association* (SEA). Houston, TX.
- Ecton, Walter G.; Heinrich, Carolyn J.; Carruthers, Celeste K. (2021). Earning to Learn: Working While Enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education* (ASHE). San Juan, PR.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2021). Framing Public Opinion Towards Career and Technical Education: Results from a Survey-Based Experiment. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy* (AEFP). Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G.; Heinrich, Carolyn J. (2021). Earning to Learn: Working While Enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy* (AEFP). Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2021). Framing Public Opinion of Career and Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *National Education Finance Academy* (NEFA). Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2020). Trade-Offs in High School Curricular Choices for Career and Technical Education Students. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Public Policy and Management* (APPAM). Virtual meeting.

- Dougherty, Shaun M; Ecton, Walter G.; Macdonald, Isabel H.; Kreisman, Daniel (2020). Increasing Individuals' Economic Stability through Massachusetts' Career and Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM)*. Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G. & Dzieszinski, Amberly. (2020). Using Punctuated Equilibrium to Understand Patterns of Institutional Budget Change in Higher Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)*. Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G.; Bennett, Christopher; Nienhusser, H. Kenny; Castillo-Montoya, Milagros; Dougherty, Shaun M. (2020). If You Fund Them, Will They Come? Findings from a Graduate Student Fellowship Program. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)*. Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G.; Dougherty, Shaun M. (2020). Understanding Heterogeneity in the Selection into and Returns to Career and Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Career and Technical Education Research (ACTER)*. Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2020). Framing Public Opinion Towards Career and Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. San Francisco, CA (conference cancelled).
- Ecton, Walter G.; Bennett, Christopher; Nienhusser, H. Kenny; Castillo-Montoya, Milagros; & Dougherty, Shaun M. (2020). If You Fund Them, Will They Come? Findings From a Graduate Student Fellowship Program. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. San Francisco, CA (conference cancelled).
- Ecton, Walter G. (2020). Labor Market Alignment in Community College Program Enrollment. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)*. Tempe, AZ (conference cancelled).
- D'Amico, Mark; Sublett, Cameron; Atwell, Adam; Ecton, Walter G.; Miller, Sabina. (2020). Community College Alignment of Workforce Education and Local Labor Markets. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)*. Tempe, AZ (conference cancelled).
- Ecton, Walter G. & Dougherty, Shaun M. (2020). Understanding Heterogeneity in the Selection into and Returns to Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *National Education Finance Academy*. Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G. & Dougherty, Shaun M. (2020). Understanding Heterogeneity in the Selection into and Returns to Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)*. Virtual meeting.
- Dougherty, Shaun M; Ecton, Walter G.; Macdonald, Isabel H.; Kreisman, Daniel (2020). Increasing Individuals' Economic Stability through Massachusetts' Career and Technical Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)*. Virtual meeting.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2019). Rethinking Career and Technical Education in an Era of College and Career Readiness. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Career and Technical Education Research (ACTER)*. Anaheim, CA.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2019). Political Representation and the Distribution of Federal Spending to Institutions of Higher Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. Toronto, Canada.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2019). Exploring the Relationship Between College Attendance and Access to College Counseling in High School. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. Toronto, Canada.
- Ecton, Walter G. & Dzieszinski, Amberly. (2019). Using Punctuated Equilibrium to Understand Patterns of Institutional Budget Change in Higher Education. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association (AERA)*. Toronto, Canada.
- Ecton, Walter G. (2019). Revisiting Career and Technical Education in the Era of College and Career Readiness. Poster presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)*. Kansas City, MO.

Soliz, Adela & Ecton, Walter G. (2018). The Role of Stimulus Funding in Increasing and Improving Vocational Training at Community Colleges. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management* (APPAM). Washington, DC.

Ecton, Walter G. (2018). High School Career and Technical Education Course-Taking and Student Drop-Out, Graduation, and College Enrollment. Paper presentation at annual meeting of *Learning Sciences Graduate Student Conference* (LSGSC). Nashville, TN.

Soliz, Adela & Ecton, Walter G. (2018). The Role of Stimulus Funding in Increasing and Improving Vocational Training at Community Colleges. Paper presentation at annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy* (AEFP). Portland, OR.

INVITED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Ecton, Walter G. (2023). Non-Traditional Students in CTE: Challenges and Opportunities. Florida Nontraditional Student Summit. Tampa, FL.

Using Social Media for Professional Development (2023). Florida State University Leadership Education, Activism, and Research Network.

Ecton, Walter G. (2022). Emerging Evidence in Rural Career and Technical Education. Luminary Labs Rural CTE Convening. New York, NY.

Ecton, Walter G. (2022). Lessons from Career and Technical Education Research. Community College Administrator Program Alumni Symposium (virtual).

Ecton, Walter G. (2022). Using Data to Understand ‘Nontraditional’ Students in Career and Technical Education. Florida Nontraditional Student Summit. Tampa, FL.

Ecton, Walter G. (2022). Understanding Heterogeneity in the Selection into and Returns to Technical Education. Presentation at Ohio State University (virtual).

Ecton, Walter G. (2022). Unpacking Differences in Outcomes from High School Career and Technical Education. Presentation at University of Pennsylvania Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Pre-Doctoral Seminar.

Ecton, Walter G. (2021). If You Fund Them, Will They Come? Findings from a Graduate Student Fellowship Program. Presentation at North Carolina State University (virtual).

Ecton, Walter G. (2021). Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Program Evaluation and Data Sources. Harvard University Strategic Data Project. Virtual presentation.

Ecton, Walter G. & Heinrich, Carolyn J. (2021). Earning to Learn: Working While Enrolled in Tennessee Colleges and Universities. Tennessee State P-20 Advisory Committee Meeting. Virtual presentation.

Ecton, Walter G. (2020). Trade-Offs in High School Curricular Choices for Career and Technical Education Students. CTE Research Network. Virtual presentation.

Ecton, Walter G. & Dougherty, Shaun M. (2019). Understanding Heterogeneity in the Selection into and Returns to Technical Education. Paper presentation at CTE_{Ex} Research Exchange Annual Partner Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

Ecton, Walter G. (2018). Rethinking Career and Technical Education: The Effects of High School CTE Course-Taking on Student Drop-Out, Graduation, and Postsecondary Enrollment. Paper presentation at CTE_{Ex} Research Exchange Annual Partner Meeting. Nashville, TN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Florida State University

Instructor, *Economics of Education*. Graduate course. Fall 2022, 2023.
Instructor, *Quasi-Experimental Data Analysis*. Graduate course. Spring 2023.
Instructor, *Higher Education Internship*. Graduate course. Spring 2023.

University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Instructor, *Politics of Education*. Masters course. Summer 2022.
Instructor, *Education Policy Research Practicum* (2 sections). Masters course. Spring 2022.
Instructor, *Introduction to Applied Quantitative Methods for Education Research: Pre-K to 20* (2 sections). Masters course. Fall 2021.

American University

Instructor, *Quantitative Research in Education*. Masters course (online). Spring 2020.

Vanderbilt University

Instructor, *Policymaking and Quantitative Analysis*. College-level class for gifted high school students. Summers 2019 & 2020.
Teaching Assistant, *Education Policy Analysis Methods*. Undergraduate course. Fall 2019.
Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Public Policy*. Undergraduate course. Spring 2017.
Teaching Assistant, *Postsecondary Access*. Masters course. Fall 2017.

Booker T. Washington Early College, Atlanta Public Schools

Instructor, *AP United States History*, Spring 2013.
Instructor, *United States History*, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013.
Instructor, *American Government*, Fall 2012.
Instructor, *World Geography*, Fall 2012.

Vanderbilt Certificate in College Teaching, Awarded Fall 2019.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), *Research Assistant* 8/2016-5/2021

Education Advisory Board (Washington, DC), *Associate Director of Marketing and New Business Development* 12/2013-7/2016

- Conducted meetings at over 300 universities and community colleges with Cabinet-level administrators.
- Initiated new business relationships with a contract value of over \$4.5 million.

Booker T. Washington Early College (Atlanta, GA), *Social Studies Teacher* 7/2011-5/2013

- Taught 9th-12th grade U.S. History, American Government, and World Geography.
- Awarded 2011-2012 Booker T. Washington Early College Principal's Teacher of the Year Award.
- Recognized as Fall 2011 Teacher of the Quarter by fellow faculty members.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to Professional Associations

LGBTQ+ Scholars Community Group Co-Chair, Association for Education Finance Policy (AEFP), 2023-current
Program Chair & Chair-Elect, AERA Career & Technical Education Special Interest Group (SIG), 2023-current
Conference Section Chair, Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC), 2023

Editorial Board Membership

The High School Journal (2022-current)

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

AERA Open (2021, 2022, 2023)
Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis (2022, 2023)
Journal of Higher Education (2022, 2023)
American Education Research Journal (2023)
Education Researcher (2023)
Education Finance and Policy (2023)

American Journal of Education (2023)
Economics of Education Review (2021)
Career and Technical Education Research (2021)
Community College Review (2019)

Departmental Service

Florida State University, Curriculum Committee Department Representative	2023-current
Florida State University, Faculty Search Committee	2023-current
Vanderbilt University, <i>PhD Admissions Student Chair</i>	2019-2020
Vanderbilt University Graduate Student Council, <i>Departmental Representative</i>	2017-2018
Peabody College Graduate Student Association, <i>Departmental Representative</i>	2016-2017

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
American Education Research Association (AERA)
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
Association for Career and Technical Education Research (ACTER)
Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)