Stopout and Time for Work

An Analysis of Degree Trajectories for Community College Students

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Outline

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Motivation

• Wages while enrolled (Austin, 1994; Canabal, 1998; Hames & Haller, 1983)
• Modeling attainment and time (DesJardins, Ahlburg, & McCall, 2006)
• Previous work in the CC sector (Jepson et al., 2010)
Research Question

What are the factors that, over time, contribute to bachelor degree attainment for community college students who intend to complete a four-year degree, with a particular focus on wages earned while concurrently enrolled?
Context

Over 50% of first-time undergraduates are enrolled in a community college.

Only 14% of students beginning at a CC in Texas obtain a bachelor’s degree within 6 years.

Texas is 2nd in terms of CC enrollment.

50 CC districts (735,000 students)

25% Hispanic; 10% Black; 2.5% Asian
Data

Texas Schools Micro Panel dataset
Cohort of 12th grade students in 2000

Data include information about race, sex, LEP status, economic disadvantage, high school curriculum, statewide exam scores, high school context (pupil to teacher ratio, enrollment, percent minority, urbanicity), distance to postsecondary education, postsecondary enrollment, postsecondary context (percent tenure, and individual wage data.
Empirical Approach

Event History Analysis
Discrete Time
Competing Risks
Multiple Spells
Findings

Differences across racial groups
Importance of pre-college factors
Importance of transfer
Higher wages inhibit overall student success
Influence of prior enrollment behavior
Discussion
Questions?

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