

## Bibliography of Research on Estimating the Returns to College

Compiled by Vivian Liu

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### A. Studies using longitudinal wage data to estimate the returns

Paper	Dataset
Arcidiacono, P. (2004). Ability sorting and the returns to college major. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 121(1–2), 343–375.	NLS72
Averett, S., & Dalessandro, S. (2001). Racial and gender differences in the returns to 2-year and 4-year degrees. <i>Education Economics</i> , 9(3), 281–292.	NLSY
Bailey, T., Kienzl, G., & Marcotte, D. E. (2004). <i>The returns to a sub-baccalaureate education: The effects of schooling, credentials and program of study on economic outcomes</i> . New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.	NELS88, HS&B, BPS89
Carneiro, P., & Lee, S. (2009). Estimating distributions of potential outcomes using local instrumental variables with an application to changes in college enrollment and wage inequality. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 149(2), 191–208.	NLSY79
Cellini, S. R., & Chaudhary, L. (2011). <i>The labor market returns to a private two-year college education</i> . Manuscript in preparation.	NLSY79, NLSY97
Chay, K. Y., & Lee, D. S. (2000). Changes in relative wages in the 1980s: Returns to observed and unobserved skills and black-white wage differentials. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 99(1), 1–38.	CPS1979– 1991

Paper	Dataset
Dale, S., & Krueger, A. B. (2011). <i>Estimating the return to college selectivity over the career using administrative earnings data</i> (NBER Working Paper No. 17159). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.	C&B, SSA records
Flores-Lagunes, A., & Light, A. (2010). Interpreting degree effects in the returns to education. <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> , 45(2), 439–467.	NLSY79
Frenette, M. (2004). The overqualified Canadian graduate: The role of the academic program in the incidence, persistence, and economic returns to overqualification. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 23(1), 29–45.	NGS
Gabriel, P. E. (1995). Estimating the returns to college: A longitudinal analysis. <i>Applied Economics Letters</i> , 2(8), 255–257.	NLSY79
Gill, A. M., & Leigh, D. E. (2000). Community college enrollment, college major, and the gender wage gap. <i>Industrial and Labor Relations Review</i> , 54(1), 163–181.	NLS 72, NLSY79
Grove, W. A., & Hussey, A. (2011). Returns to field of study versus school quality: MBA selection on observed and unobserved heterogeneity. <i>Economic Inquiry</i> , 49(3), 730–749.	GMAT Registrant Survey
Grubb, W. N. (1993). The varied economic returns to postsecondary education: New evidence from the class of 1972. <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> , 28(2), 365–382.	NLSY72
Grubb, W. N. (1997). The returns to education in the sub-baccalaureate labor market, 1984–1990. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 16(3), 231–245.	SIPP, NLSY72
Hilmer, M. J. (2002). Human capital attainment, university quality, and entry-level wages for college transfer students. <i>Southern Economic Journal</i> , 69(2), 457–469.	B&B
Hoekstra, M. (2009). The effect of attending the flagship state university on earnings: A discontinuity-based approach. <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> , 91(4), 717–724.	College data, UI data
Jacobson, L., LaLonde, R. J., & Sullivan, D. (2005). Estimating the returns to community college schooling for displaced workers. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 125(1–2), 271–304.	WA CC data, UI data
Jacobson, L., LaLonde, R. J., & Sullivan, D. (2005). The impact of community college retraining on older displaced workers: Should we teach old dogs new tricks? <i>Industrial and Labor Relations Review</i> , 58(3), 398–415.	WA CC data, UI data

Paper	Dataset
Jacobson, L., & Mokher, C. (2009). <i>Pathways to boosting the earnings of low-income students by increasing their educational attainment</i> . Washington, DC: Hudson Institute Center for Employment Policy.	FL K-12 data, UI data
Jepsen, C., Troske, K., & Coomes, P. (2009). <i>The labor-market returns for community college degrees, diplomas, and certificates</i> (Discussion Paper Series DP 2009-08). Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research.	Kentucky CTC System
Kalogrides, D., & Grodsky, E. (2011). Something to fall back on: Community colleges as a safety net. <i>Social Forces</i> , 89(3), 853-877.	NELS88
Kinsler, J., & Pavan, R. (2011). Family income and higher education choices: The importance of accounting for college quality. <i>Journal of Human Capital</i> , 5(4) 453-477.	NLSY79, NLSY97
Leigh, D. E., & Gill, A. M. (1997). Labor market returns to community colleges: Evidence for returning adults. <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> , 32(2), 334-353.	NLSY79
Light, A. (1995). The effects of interrupted schooling on wages. <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> , 30(3), 472-502.	NLSY79
Molitor, C. J., & Leigh, D. E. (2005). In-school work experience and the returns to two-year and four-year colleges. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 24(4), 459-468.	NLSY79
Monks, J. (2000). The returns to individual and college characteristics: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 19(3), 279-289.	NLSY79
Moretti, E. (2004). Estimating the social return to higher education: evidence from longitudinal and repeated cross-sectional data. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 121(1-2), 175-212.	NLSY79, Census
Smyth, R., & Strathdee, R. (2010). The effects of type of institution attended on graduate earnings in New Zealand: A cross-field comparison. <i>British Journal of Sociology of Education</i> , 31(4), 489-508.	NZ Student Loan data
Taber, C. R. (2001). The rising college premium in the eighties: Return to college or return to unobserved ability? <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> , 68(3), 665-691. doi: 10.1111/1467-937x.00185	NLSY

Paper	Dataset
Walker, I., & Zhu, Y. (2011). Differences by degree: Evidence of the net financial rates of return to undergraduate study for England and Wales. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 30(6), 1177–1186.	UK LFS

## B. Pre-enrollment labor market selection issues

Cellini, S. R., & Chaudhary, L. (2011). *The labor market returns to a private two-year college education*. Manuscript in preparation.

Dahl, G. B. (2002). Mobility and the return to education: Testing a Roy model with multiple markets. *Econometrica*, 70(6), 2367–2420.

Dale, S., & Krueger, A. B. (2011). *Estimating the return to college selectivity over the career using administrative earnings data* (NBER Working Paper No. 17159). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Jacobson, L., LaLonde, R. J., & Sullivan, D. (2005). Estimating the returns to community college schooling for displaced workers. *Journal of Econometrics*, 125(1–2), 271–304.

Leigh, D. E., & Gill, A. M. (1997). Labor market returns to community colleges: Evidence for returning adults. *Journal of Human Resources*, 32(2), 334–353.

Light, A. (1995). The effects of interrupted schooling on wages. *Journal of Human Resources*, 30(3), 472–502.

## C: Recent Returns: Estimates from graduates since 2000

Cellini, S. R., & Chaudhary, L. (2011). *The labor market returns to a private two-year college education*. Manuscript in preparation.

Dale, S., & Krueger, A. B. (2011). *Estimating the return to college selectivity over the career using administrative earnings data* (NBER Working Paper No. 17159). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Heckman, J. J., Lochner, L. J., & Todd, P. E. (2008). Earnings functions and rates of return. *Journal of Human Capital*, 2(1), 1–31.

Henderson, D. J., Polachek, S. W., & Wang, L. (2011). Heterogeneity in schooling rates of return. *Economics of Education Review*, 30(6), 1202–1214.

Jacobson, L., & Mokher, C. (2009). *Pathways to boosting the earnings of low-income students by increasing their educational attainment*. Washington, DC: Hudson Institute Center for Employment Policy.

Jepsen, C., Troske, K., & Coomes, P. (2009). *The labor-market returns for community college degrees, diplomas, and certificates* (Discussion Paper Series DP 2009–08). Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research.

Long, M. C. (2008). College quality and early adult outcomes. *Economics of Education Review*, 27(5), 588–602.

Reynolds, C. L. (in press). Where to attend? Estimating the effects of beginning college at a two-year institution. *Economics of Education Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775711001774>

**D: Instrumental variables (IV): studies that have used IVs to estimate the return to college.**

Paper	IV and dataset
Black, D. A., & Smith, J. A. (2006). Estimating the returns to college quality with multiple proxies for quality. <i>Journal of Labor Economics</i> , 24(3), 701–728.	Freshmen retention rate; rejection rate; faculty-students ratio; mean SAT scores; mean faculty salaries NLSY79
Brand, J. E., & Xie, Y. (2010). Who benefits most from college? Evidence for negative selection in heterogeneous economic returns to higher education. <i>American Sociological Review</i> , 75(2), 273–302.	Ethnicity; parental income and education; # siblings; college availability; religion; college track and friends' plan NLSY79, WLS
Carneiro, P., Heckman, J. J., & Vytlacil, E. J. (2011). Estimating marginal returns to education. <i>American Economic Review</i> , 101(6), 2754–2781.	Presence of a college at 14; local earnings at 17; local unemployment rate at 17; 4-yr public college tuition at 17 NLSY79

**Paper****IV and dataset**

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Carneiro, P., & Lee, S. (2009). Estimating distributions of potential outcomes using local instrumental variables with an application to changes in college enrollment and wage inequality. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 149(2), 191–208.	Distance to college; tuition; local unemployment rates NLSY79
Chay, K. Y., & Lee, D. S. (2000). Changes in relative wages in the 1980s: Returns to observed and unobserved skills and black-white wage differentials. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 99(1), 1–38.	Across group variation in changes in with-group log-wage variances over time CPS79-91
Devereux, P. J., & Fan, W. (2011). Earnings returns to the British education expansion. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 30(6), 1153–1166.	Dummy for post-expansion cohort UK LFS
Giustinelli, P. (2011). Non-parametric bounds on quantiles under monotonicity assumptions: With an application to the Italian education returns. <i>Journal of Applied Econometrics</i> , 26(5), 783–824. doi: 10.1002/jae.1132	Reform 1969; maternal education and professional condition Italy Survey of Household Income and Wealth
Kalogrides, D., & Grodsky, E. (2011). Something to fall back on: Community colleges as a safety net. <i>Social Forces</i> , 89(3), 853–877.	Distance from college NELS88
Kane, T. J., & Rouse, C. E. (1995). Labor-market returns to two and four-year college. <i>American Economic Review</i> , 85(3), 600–614.	Self-reported education; public tuition; distance from college NLS72
Kaymak, B. (2009). Ability bias and the rising education premium in the United States: A cohort-based analysis. <i>Journal of Human Capital</i> , 3(3), 224–267.	Year of birth CPS1964–2003, Census1960–2000
Long, M. C. (2008). College quality and early adult outcomes. <i>Economics of Education Review</i> , 27(5), 588–602.	Quality of nearby college; characteristics of students applied to colleges with similar quality NELS88
Moretti, E. (2004). Estimating the social return to higher education: evidence from longitudinal and repeated cross-sectional data. <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> , 121(1–2), 175–212.	Lagged city demographic structure; land grant college NLSY79, Census

**Paper****IV and dataset**

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Reynolds, C. L. (in press). Where to attend? Estimating the effects of beginning college at a two-year institution. *Economics of Education Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775711001774>

College proximity  
NELS88

Taber, C. R. (2001). The rising college premium in the eighties: Return to college or return to unobserved ability? *Review of Economic Studies*, 68(3), 665–691. doi: 10.1111/1467-937x.00185

Parental background  
NLSY79