

Tom Swiderski
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RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

- 2024 – Research Associate, Education Policy Initiative at Carolina, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2022 – 2024 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Education Policy Initiative at Carolina, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2017 – 2020 Research Assistant, Department of Public Policy, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2016 – 2017 Social Research Specialist, The Urban Institute at UNC Charlotte

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Public Policy, UNC Chapel Hill, 2022
Dissertation: “The impacts of three college-preparatory policies and programs on secondary and postsecondary education outcomes”
- M.S.W., Social Work, UNC Chapel Hill, 2016
- B.A., Psychology, Boston College, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

§ Peer-reviewed journal publications

- Swiderski, T.**, Fuller, S. C., & Bastian, K. C. (2025). Student-level attendance patterns across three post-pandemic years. *Educational Evaluation & Policy Analysis*. [Advance Online Publication]. <https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737251315715> (Associated blog post: [here](#). Associated report: [here](#)).
- Fuller, S. C., **Swiderski, T.**, Mikkelsen, C., & Bastian, K. C. (2024). In school, engaged, on-track? The effect of the pandemic on student attendance, course grades, and grade retention in North Carolina. *Educational Researcher*. [Advance Online Publication]. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X241299397> (Working paper version: [here](#)).
- Swiderski, T.** (2024). Testing the way forward: The impact of statewide ACT or SAT testing on postsecondary outcomes. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. [Advance Online Publication]. <https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737241241260>
- Swiderski, T.** (2024). The effect of Early College High Schools on STEM Bachelor’s degree attainment: Evidence from North Carolina. *Education Finance and Policy*, 19(3), 437-460. https://doi.org/10.1162/edfp_a_00404 (Open access pre-print: [Here](#))
- Hemelt, S., & **Swiderski, T.** (2022). College comes to high school: Participation and performance in Tennessee’s innovative wave of dual-credit courses. *Educational*

Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 44(2), 313-341.
<https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737211052310>

Swiderski, T., Lauen, D. L., Fuller, S. C., & Unlu, F. (2021). A path towards citizenship: The effects of Early College High Schools on criminal convictions and voting. *Social Science Research*, 99. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2021.102584>

§ Selected research briefs & reports

Swiderski, T., & Otte, A. (2024). *Senior year math and science course enrollments in GEAR UP high schools: 2023-24 school year report*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. (available on request).

Bastian, K. C., **Swiderski, T.,** & Fuller, S. C. (2024). *Community college transfers in the teacher workforce: Teaching readiness, employment, performance, and retention outcomes*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. <https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2024/06/CC-Transfers-in-Teacher-Workforce.pdf>

Swiderski, T., Fuller, S. C., & Bastian, K. C. (2024). *The persistence of post-pandemic chronic absenteeism*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. <https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2024/05/Persistence-of-Absenteeism.pdf>

Miesner, R., **Swiderski, T.,** Petry, K., Rana, R., Ruiz, J., & Fuller, S. C. (2024). *Carnegie math and tutoring implementation in GEAR UP NC high schools*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. (available on request)

Fuller, S. C., Bastian, K. C., **Swiderski, T.,** & Lauen, D. L. (2024). *Post-pandemic changes in absences and chronic absence rates through 2022-23*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. <https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2024/03/Post-pandemic-Changes-in-Absences-and-Chronic-Absence-Rates-in-NC-2022-2023.pdf>

Swiderski, T. (2024). *Math outcomes in GEAR UP high schools through the 2023-24 school year*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. (available on request).

Swiderski, T., Fuller, S. C., & Black, D. (2023). *Effects of the pandemic on high school STEM course-taking and performance*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2023/09/EPIC_Insights-Effects-of-the-Pandemic-on-High-School-STEM-Course-Taking-and-Performance.pdf

Swiderski, T., Fuller, S. C., & Bastian, K. C. (2023). *Community college transfers and the pipeline of prospective teachers in North Carolina*. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2023/08/EPICInsight CCTransfers_final.pdf

Fuller, S. C., Miesner, R., Rana, R., **Swiderski, T.,** Capers, S., D'Amico, E., Huang, C., Palermo, E., Petry, K., & Redmond, T. (2023). *GEAR UP North Carolina*

implementation and impact: Mid-grant report. Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. (available on request).

Fuller, S. C., Bastian, K., **Swiderski, T.**, & Mikkelsen, C. (2023). *Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student attendance, grades, grade retention, and suspensions in North Carolina through the 2021-22 school year.* Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. <https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2023/06/Effects-of-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-on-Student-Attendance-Grades-Grade-Retention-and-Suspensions.pdf>

Fuller, S. C., **Swiderski, T.**, Mikkelsen, C., Bastian, K. C., & McDonnell, J. (2022). *Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on student absences, grades, and grade retention.* Education Policy Initiative at Carolina. <https://epic.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1268/2022/12/Effect-of-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-on-Student-Absences-Grades-and-Grade-Retention.pdf>

Swiderski, T., & Lauen, D. L. (2019). *Comparing survey information on student postsecondary intentions and administrative data on observed enrollments.* (available on request)

Swiderski, T., & Lauen, D. L. (2019). *Postsecondary degree completion among students who attended traditional, charter, and Early College High Schools in North Carolina.* (available on request)

§ Media publications & blog posts

Swiderski, T. (Jan. 22, 2025). Learning loss is still with us. Where do we go from here? *EdNC*. <https://www.ednc.org/learning-loss-is-still-with-us-where-do-we-go-from-here/>

Swiderski, T., Fuller, S. C., & Bastian, K. C. (Sep. 9, 2024). Student-level attendance patterns show depth, breadth, and persistence of post-pandemic absenteeism. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/student-level-attendance-patterns-show-depth-breadth-and-persistence-of-post-pandemic-absenteeism/>

Swiderski, T., & Fuller, S. C. (Nov. 6, 2023). Student GPA and test score gaps are growing – and could be slowing pandemic recovery. *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/student-gpa-and-test-score-gaps-are-growing-and-could-be-slowing-pandemic-recovery/>

Swiderski, T. (June 12, 2023). How (and why) to expand the Career and College Promise. *EdNC*. <https://www.ednc.org/perspective-how-and-why-to-expand-n-c-s-career-and-college-promise/>

Swiderski, T., Fuller, S. C., Mikkelsen, C., & Bastian, K. (Feb. 15, 2023). New research shows uneven impacts of pandemic on student attendance and grades. *EdNC*. <https://www.ednc.org/perspective-new-research-shows-uneven-impacts-of-pandemic-on-student-attendance-and-grades/>

§ Manuscripts in preparation

Swiderski, T., Fuller, S. C., & Bastian, K. C. “The relationship between student attendance and achievement, pre- and post-COVID.” (R&R at *AERA Open*)
Working paper: <https://edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai24-951.pdf>

Swiderski, T., & McDonnell, J. “Diverted to what? The impact of community college attendance on mid-career occupational characteristics and wages.”

RESEARCH FUNDING & PROJECT LEADERSHIP

§ Funded Research Projects

- 2025 – 2026 Center on Reinventing Public Education, Evidence Project, \$437,462
Co-PI (PI: Sarah C. Fuller; Co-PI: Jenny Sawada Vega)
Understanding Changes in Student Absences, Causes of Absences, and Potential Solutions Following the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2024 – 2026 Urban Institute, Student Upward Mobility Initiative, \$153,050
Co-PI (PI: Sarah C. Fuller; Co-PI: Oleksander Movchan)
The (Work)Keys to Success: Do ACT WorkKeys Scores Predict Early College and Career Outcomes?

§ Additional Project Leadership Roles

- 2020 – 2026* U.S. Department of Education and GEAR UP North Carolina, \$922,619
Co-PI (PI: Sarah C. Fuller; Co-PIs: Rosie Miesner, Rachel Rana)
Evaluation of North Carolina’s GEAR UP Program
(*joined as co-PI in 2023)

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

§ Peer-reviewed conference presentations

- 2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP): “Diverted to what? The impact of community college attendance on mid-career occupational characteristics and wages.”
- 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM): “The relationship between student attendance and achievement, pre- and post-COVID.”
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP): “Testing the way forward: The impact of statewide ACT/SAT testing on postsecondary outcomes.”
- 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM): “The effect of Early College High Schools on STEM Bachelor’s degree attainment: Evidence from North Carolina.”
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP): “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on high school student course-taking and progression.”

- 2022 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP): “Algebra too? The effects of raising high school math and science graduation requirements on secondary and postsecondary outcomes.”
- 2021 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM): “A path towards citizenship: The effects of early college high schools on criminal convictions and voting” (held in March 2022)
- Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE): “A path towards citizenship: The effects of early college high schools on criminal convictions and voting”
- Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE): “Testing the way forward: The effect of universal ACT/SAT testing on college enrollment” (poster presentation)
- 2020 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP): “College comes to high school: Participation and performance in Tennessee’s innovative wave of dual-credit courses”

§ Other selected research presentations

- 2025 “Can attendance recovery boost academic recovery? Connecting post-pandemic student absenteeism to learning loss and recovery in North Carolina”
- North Carolina Association for Research in Education (NCARE) Annual Conference
- 2024 “COVID impacts and recovery: Lessons from North Carolina”
- ACT Strategic Policy Symposium
- “Community college transfers in the teacher workforce: Teaching readiness, employment, and performance outcomes” (with Kevin C. Bastian)
- Early Childhood Education Birth through Kindergarten Transfer Advisory Committee Meeting, UNC and NC Community College Systems
 - Education Deans, Associate Deans, and Directors Quarterly Meeting, UNC System
- “The effect of Early College High Schools on STEM Bachelor’s degree attainment: Evidence from North Carolina”
- Dual Enrollment Conference (hosted by the Early College Research Center at UNC Greensboro)
- 2023 “Community college transfers and the pipeline of prospective teachers in North Carolina” (with Kevin C. Bastian)
- Early Childhood Education Birth through Kindergarten Transfer Advisory Committee Meeting, UNC and NC Community College Systems
 - Associate’s in Teacher Preparation Transfer Advisory Committee Meeting, UNC and NC Community College Systems

“GEAR UP NC Evaluation Update” (with Sarah Crittenden Fuller & Rosie Miesner)

- GEAR UP North Carolina Learning Summit 2023

2021 “Algebra too? The effects of raising high school math and science graduation requirements on secondary and postsecondary outcomes”

- Education & Inequality Seminar, UNC Chapel Hill

2020 “College comes to high school: Participation and performance in Tennessee’s innovative wave of dual-credit courses”

- Policy Research Group, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Public Policy

2019 “College comes to high school: Participation and performance in Tennessee’s innovative wave of dual-credit courses”

- Education & Inequality Seminar, UNC Chapel Hill

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

2025 Emerging Education Policy Scholars, Cohort 14 (*hosted by the American Enterprise Institute & the Thomas B. Fordham Institute*)

2023 EdResearch for Action Writing Fellowship (*hosted by the Annenberg Institute at Brown University & Results for America*)

2021 – 2022 The UNC Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$18,000)

2021 The Kenneth G. Smith Summer Research Fellowship (UNC) (\$5,000)

2017 – 2018 The UNC Graduate School Merit Scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

§ Teaching Assistantships

PLCY 460/460H: Quantitative Methods for Public Policy

- Spring 2021 (teaching assistant & recitation lead instructor for 2 sections, 44 students)
- Fall 2020 (teaching assistant & recitation lead instructor for 2 sections, 48 students)
- Spring 2020 (teaching assistant & recitation lead instructor for 2 sections, 48 students)
- Spring 2018 (course assistant providing homework and project support, 23 students)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

§ Committees and Groups

2024 – Member, EPIC Committee on Professional Development and Learning

2022 – 2024 Co-Chair, AEFPP “First-Gens” Community Group

2018 – 2020 Student Advisor, Pre-Graduate Education Advising Program, UNC University Career Services

§ Grant/Proposal Reviews

2023 – 2024 Proposal Reviewer, SREE Conference

§ Ad-Hoc Journal Referee

AERA Open; Education Economics; Education Finance and Policy; Educational Policy

OTHER SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – 2016 Community Impact Intern, United Way of the Greater Triangle
- 2014 – 2015 Social Work Intern, Durham Nativity School
- 2013 – 2014 Child Care Worker, Walker (School and Residential Facility)

Updated 2-25-25