

Alex Gordon
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ALEX GORDON

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OBJECTIVE

- Manage research projects; discover and present exciting results
- Create robust data processing pipelines; empower firms to track
- Improve my craft - write succinct and legible code,

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago Crime and Education Labs

Chicago, IL and New York, NY

Senior Research Analyst

August 2023-Ongoing

- Technical Lead
 - Supervised an intern throughout a collaboration with Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department to identify CPS students who were victims of crimes and corresponding risk factors.
 - Worked in R and Slurm to improve the match rate of CPS to CPD data by 9%, reduce false-positive match rate by 23%, and reduced processing time from over 120 hours to approximately 3 hours.
 - Reported a greater rate of student victimization than previously reflected in CPS records; inspected CPS coding practices to show that discrepancies were rooted in CPS-side failure to match some victims to student records and in failure to reflect ongoing enrollment during summer months for students in options schools. Presented work summarizing victimization patterns and risk indicators to CPS leadership, CPD officers, and representatives of the Mayor's Office.
- Lead Analyst
 - Wrote code in R to produce results for Fulton and Miami branches of an ongoing randomized controlled trial assessing the impact of different tutoring models, including ITT effects based on linear models, TOT effects based on IV models, balance tables using Randomized Inference, and data visualizations on takeup and dosage.
 - Draft Pre-Analysis Plan summarizing full scope and methodology of project for sites collectively spanning over 10,000 students across 3 school years. Draft memos summarizing econometric implications of IV model construction, and proper imputation of covariates.
 - Implemented Slurm to increase the rigor and efficiency of Randomized Inference by conducting 10 times as many iterations in 7% of the previous operation time - a script that once took 10 hours to run now takes 1 and tests 10 times as many possible randomization procedures.
- Data Science Work
 - Manage Python pipeline to process enrollment, demographic, assessment, grade, misconduct, attendance, and special-education history for over 8,000 students in Fulton County, Georgia.
 - Conduct quarterly site visits to Fulton County to coordinate school enrollment in the randomized control study, observe tutoring sessions, meet with students and teachers,
 - Awarded "Debugger of the Year" after identifying inherited coding issues which mislabeled test results; corrected this issue to restore hundreds of students to our research sample and improve estimation of treatment effects.

University of Chicago Consortium on School Research

Chicago, IL

Research Analyst

December 2022-August 2023

- Early Literacy Test Equating: Conducted all coding work for an ongoing project to analyze the effectiveness of CPS early-grade literacy education during and after the pandemic. Handled the implementation of hierarchical linear econometric theory in my team's creation of a new approach to tracking student progress across multiple test types, resulting in [a working paper published by Annenberg EdExchange](#). This novel method produces superior predictors of student success in future grades. More publications forthcoming.

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- Teacher Retention: Produce regressions and visualizations describing and forecasting midyear and end-of-year teacher resignation and transfer. Use both R and specialized software to conduct HLM and fixed-effects models. Worked across 53 CPS files to produce. Presented this paper at the 2023 AERA Conference in Chicago, and to multiple offices at Chicago Public Schools. Publications forthcoming.
- Early College: Developed an R package using the Google Routes API to more accurately calculate distances between students and school campuses based on travel time by car, foot and transit, or a weighted average of the two. Routes API package was incorporated into two more Consortium projects.

Research Assistant

May-December 2022

- Teacher Retention: Combine 53 CPS files to produce and maintain a database of over 16,000 CPS teachers and principals with demographic characteristics, educational attainment, school characteristics, career outcomes, and corresponding interactions. Document data construction and comprehensiveness in code and memos.
- Early College: Reconfigure National Student Clearinghouse data for over 75,000 students to track post-graduation outcomes, analyze impact of early college coursework on enrollment, persistence, and graduation rates.

NHS Chicago

Chicago, IL

Americorps Data Fellow

July-September 2021

- Led a team of four interns in using VBA and SQL to clean and reorganize databases on home loan recipients and donors. Data covered over a million observations over more than twenty years. Generated two unified databases out of a system that previously covered ten distinct files; conducted training on using these databases.
- Delivered two codebooks of over 300 terms each on donor and loan recipients, including data types, categorical definitions, example entries, and usage across different departments.

St. Bartholomew School

Chicago, IL

Teacher, 5th-8th Grade Mathematics, 5th Grade Homeroom

August 2020-August 2021

- Planned and executed all mathematics instruction and assessment for 82 students across 4 grades. Prepared and delivered specialized programming for students of different ability levels. 61 students achieved yearly learning goals and 35 achieved stretch goals based on i-Ready performance, compared to prior-year results of less than 50% of students achieving yearly learning goals.
- Conducted weekly analysis of academic performance data to identify struggling students, plan and organize learning interventions, and assess effectiveness of new pedagogical strategies.
- Led implementation of pandemic safety protocols across four classrooms; managed complex social and behavioral issues with sensitivity in collaboration with parents, student counselors, and other teachers.

World Relief International

Chicago, IL

Refugee Youth Summer Academy Instructor

June-September 2020

- Planned and executed eight hours of instruction on academic subjects, social-emotional skills, and arts and crafts each week for first- and second-grade students from refugee or asylum-seeking families.
- Managed budget of \$1000 for acquisition and distribution of school supplies to 45 families.
- Organized weekly check-in meetings with Northwestern University's TIILT Laboratory. Led detailed case logging of attendance and participation, and organized data into file for analysis and publication.
- Collaborated with twelve families to manage twenty-five school transfers or enrollments. Worked with interpreters or directly translated for ten families with limited English proficiency. Completed over one hundred forms for student enrollment, adhering to best practices for management of sensitive data.

City Year Chicago

Chicago, IL

Student Success Coach (7th-8th Grade Math), Frederick R. Funston Elementary School

Sept 2019-June 2020

- Conducted daily mathematics instruction with each of 12 students with severe academic deficiencies. 10 students showed "strong" or "very strong" growth over the course of the academic year.

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- Led three-times-a-week social-emotional learning sessions with each of six students struggling with behavioral or attendance concerns. Four of these six students showed significant improvement on independently administered tests of emotional maturity or capacity for socially appropriate behavior.
- Led transition to virtual educational work in response to COVID-19 epidemic. Carried out virtual instruction through presentations and facilitated discussions over Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Hudson Legal Group

Chicago, IL

Technical Writing Manager

August 2018 - October 2019

- Supervised a team of four specialists. Interviewed two, selecting them for hire, and guided them through training. Three of my supervisees, including both of those whom I selected for hire and trained, were eventually promoted to managerial positions.
- Reviewed, gave feedback, and offered revisions on an average of four projects each day, including reviewing approximately 6,000 words of content per project and comparing them to technical documentation and documented standards for persuasive writing to USCIS. Provided critical feedback with a focus on helping each writing specialist grow in the quality and consistency of their work.
- My team achieved a case success rate 20% superior to the average for teams across the firm.

Technical Writing Specialist

June 2017 - August 2018

- Managed a portfolio of three projects at a time, completing one project each day. Each project was a petition for visa waiver status to USCIS based on the extraordinary research ability of a firm client, and 6,000 words on average.
- Researched and summarized highly technical academic projects in approachable terms while targeting the specific requirements of different visa waiver pathways including national-defense, national-economic, and global-economic merits of the research.

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago

December 2022

M.A. (Hon) in Public Policy, with Certificate in Research Methods

GPA: 3.82

Northwestern University

June 2017

B.A. (Hon). Triple Major: Mathematics, Economics, Higher Education Studies

GPA: 3.62