Econ 477b. Topics in the Economics of Education

**Day / time:** M 1:30 - 3:20 pm  
**Course Type:** Undergraduate  
**Course term:** Spring  
**Instructor(s):** Joseph Altonji

This seminar will examine a set of critical topics concerning education and education policy. The main topics are (1) the private return to high school, college, and graduate school, (2) the effects of school spending, class size, teacher quality, and peers on education outcomes, (3) the supply of teachers, (4) economic and racial disparities in educational attainment, (5) the effects of charter schools and choice programs on the efficiency and equity of primary and secondary education, and (6) access and costs of postsecondary education. Policy options will receive emphasis. The readings consist mainly of research articles and will combine seminal papers with more recent, cutting-edge research. Readings are mainly empirical. They include a mix of descriptive studies, and studies that measure the causal effect of education decisions and policies. Some of the key theoretical models in the economics of education will be also be covered.

Prerequisites: a. Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 121 or 125); b. Introduction to Data Analysis and Econometrics or Equivalent

**Semester offered:** Spring  
**Undergrad Course Category:** Education  
International  
**Course Description:** Course Description

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