

PROPOSAL: THE EFFECTS OF ACADEMIC PROBATION ON COLLEGE SUCCESS

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Nearly all universities and colleges use some type of academic probation regime as a way to provide information to both student and school that academic performance is lacking and that remediation or intervention is needed to ensure eventual success. Schools often use a mix of penalties and services to attempt to increase the performance of these students. An additional feature of academic probation guidelines at universities is a sharp threshold, often a GPA of 2.0, so that students who earn a 2.05 GPA are treated quite differently than students who earn a 1.95. Both this threshold and the consequences on being on academic probation vary by institution. These features of the designation of academic probation across universities and over time will allow an investigation on its causal impacts of college success.

The project will use administrative data on the universe of enrolled students across up to 10 universities in Texas over more than a decade (1990-2005).

The student will help organize the data, collect information on the background of academic probation at each university each year, and perform some statistical analysis. Knowledge of STATA is needed.

The student will learn how to use large data sets, how to collect relevant institutional information and background literature, how to work with statistical software packages, and how to apply statistical techniques, including regression discontinuity designs, to an economic problem.