

Matthew Whitehouse

PhD Student, Department of Economics, Purdue University
U.S. Army Officer (FA58, Marketing & Behavioral Economics)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor economics and public policy, with a focus on military manpower, recruiting, and human capital. Applied microeconometrics and causal inference (regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, quasi-experimental design) using large-scale administrative data.

EDUCATION

Purdue University — Ph.D. Student, Economics <i>Passed macro, micro, and econometrics qualifying examinations (first year).</i> <i>Second-year field concentration: Labor Economics and Public Policy.</i>	2025 – Present
Carnegie Mellon University — M.S., Business Analytics <i>Quantitative methods, statistical modeling, and data analytics.</i>	2021 – 2023
College of William & Mary — M.B.A. <i>Graduate research project on JROTC (unpublished).</i>	2018 – 2019
United States Military Academy (West Point) — B.S., Economics	2006 – 2010

RESEARCH

Dissertation research (in progress)

Evaluation of the U.S. Army Future Soldier Preparatory Course (FSPC).

- Quasi-experimental evaluation of an Army recruiting-and-accessions program using a regression discontinuity design at the qualification-score cutoff.
- Examines effects on Soldier accession, performance, and human-capital outcomes, with implications for recruiting policy and the enlisted labor market.
- Directly connected to current duties at the intersection of the military labor market and recruiting.

Behavioral and public economics of soldier charitable giving (Army Emergency Relief).

- Uses decades of Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) administrative payroll data to study giving within the closed-loop structure of Army Emergency Relief (AER), where aid recipients and donors are the same observable population over time.
- Flagship questions examine reciprocity decay (whether and how quickly loan recipients become donors after debt clearance) and a cross-behavioral peer effect (whether a peer receiving aid changes others' giving), using discrete-time hazard, difference-in-differences, and event-study designs.
- Exploits pseudo-random unit assignment and non-overlapping AER and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) solicitation windows to separate warm-glow, social-pressure, and income-effect channels.

Graduate research project — JROTC study (unpublished) 2018 – 2019
Conducted as part of M.B.A. coursework; applied program-evaluation methods to a youth/military-adjacent education program.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

United States Military Academy (West Point) — Instructor 2021 – 2025
ECON201: Principles of Economics.
MA367: Mathematics for Economists (2022).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE — U.S. ARMY

Functional Area 58 (FA58) — Marketing & Behavioral Economics Officer 2021 – Present
Work at the intersection of the military labor market, recruiting, and behavioral economics; instructor duties at USMA fall within this period.

Armor Officer (19A) 2010 – 2021
Operational and leadership assignments across armor/maneuver formations.

METHODOLOGICAL & QUANTITATIVE TRAINING

Ph.D. econometrics sequence: causal inference and applied microeconometrics (regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, matching), structural methods, and resampling/bootstrap inference.

Graduate microeconomic and macroeconomic theory (qualifying-exams level). M.S. Business Analytics: statistical modeling, machine learning, and large-data methods.

Software: Stata, R, Python, MATLAB, LaTeX.

FIELDS

Labor Economics • Public Economics / Public Policy • Applied Microeconometrics • Economics of Military Manpower
