Catalina Samantha Vasquez

Google Scholar | catalinavasquez@utexas.edu | LinkedIn

Research Expertise

Higher Education Policy, Labor Markets, Career and Technical Education, College Access, Workforce Education, Adult Learners

Education

Ph.D.	University of Texas at Austin; Higher Education Leadership & Policy Dissertation: *Three Essays on Adult Learners: Opportunity, Access, and Choice in Postsecondary* Committee: Dr. Gandara, D. (Chair); Dr. Giani, M; Dr. Green, T; Dr. Bartlett, J.	2027
	California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo	2023
M.P.P.	Public Policy, Concentration: Economic Theory	
B.A.	Political Science, Concentration: Pre-Law	2017
	Ventura County Community College	2014
A.A.	Dual Enrollment	
	California Lutheran University Thousand Oaks	2012
TRIO	Upward Bound	

Certificate of Casual Research Methods for Career and Technical Education, AIR 2026

Methods

Quantitative: Statistical Analysis, GIS & Spatial Analysis (Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS Pro)
Qualitative: Semi-Structured Interviews, Case Study Research, Thematic Analysis (Dedoose)
Survey Research: Survey Design, Administration, & Analysis (Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey)

Publications

Working Paper

Vasquez, C., Gandara, D., Sanchez, Z., Nunez, S. (2025) Selling Student Success: A Critical Analysis of Predictive Analytics Vendors in Higher Education. https://edworkingpapers.com/ai25-1349

Revise & Resubmit

Vasquez, C. Unveiling the Hidden College: A Systematic Literature Review

Vasquez, C., Gandara, D., Sanchez, Z., Nunez, S. (2025) Selling Student Success: A Critical Analysis of Predictive Analytics Vendors in Higher Education. Postsecondary Student Success

Policy Briefs

Vasquez, C. (2025) Learning By Doing: Work-Based Strategies, Summer Fellowship Society of Research on Educational Effectiveness. *Texas ScholarsWork* https://doi.org/10.26153/tsw/62305

Vasquez, C. (2025) Advancing Latino Futures | *Austin Community Foundation.* https://www.austincf.org/our-programs/research/advancing-latino-futures-2025/

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Research in Progress

Vasquez, C. Geography of Skill Builders: A Geospatial Analysis of Adult Learners' Access to Short-Term Certificate Programs
Vasquez, C. Becoming the Skill Builders: Adult Learners' Postsecondary Choice in Short-Term Certificate Programs
Vasquez, C. College Access and Choice for Adult Learners: Extending Perna's Conceptual Framework

Teaching Experience

Fall 2026 — Qualitative Research Design and Analysis
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy
The University of Texas at Austin

Research Experience

2025-2026 — **Texas Advance Computing Center (TACC),** Graduate Research Assistant
PI(s): Lisa Garbrecht , PhD; Josh Childs, PhD
The University of Texas at Austin

2024 –2025 — **Predictive Analytic Models,** Graduate Research Assistant
PI(s): Denisa Gandara, PhD
The University of Texas at Austin

2023-2024 — **Predicting Credit Loss in Transfers,** Graduate Research Assistant
PI(s): Mathew Giani PhD, and Lauren Schudde, PhD
The University of Texas at Austin

Grants & Funding

ECMC: Foundation- Postsecondary CTE Research (2026)
$8,500 **TCRP:** Texas Civil Rights Project (2026)
$8,000 **SREE:** Society of Research on Educational Effectiveness (2025)
$4,500 **ECMC**: Foundation- Postsecondary CTE Research (2025)
$5,000 **E3 Alliance**: Community Partnerships (2025)
$2,500 **Spencer Foundation:** Learning Analytics for Equity (2024)
$10,000 **University of Texas Austin**: Jesse H. Jones Endowed (2023)
$10,000 **University of Texas Austin**: Equity Fellow (2023)
$20,000 **Dell Scholars:** Ventura County Community Foundation (2014)
$5,000 **Santa Paula Rotary:** James C. Basile (2014)

Peer-Reviewed Conference

2026 — "Geography of Reskilling and Upskilling for Adult Learners" *Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM);* Boston, Massachusetts

2026 — "Learn By Doing: Strategies to Support Postsecondary Education Work-Based Learning" *Postsecondary CTE & Workforce Development Research Forum;* Remote

2026 — "Unveiling the Hidden College: A Systematic Literature Review" *Association of Education and Finance (AEFP);* Chicago, Illinois

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2025	"Selling Student Success: How Predictive Analytic Vendors Market Success in Higher Education" *Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM);* Seattle, Washington
2025	*"Learn By Doing: Work-Based Learning in Postsecondary Education" Society of Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE);* Chicago, Illinois
2025	"Unveiling the Hidden College: A Systematic Literature Review" *Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE);* Denver, Colorado
2025	"Selling Student Success: How Predictive Analytic Vendors Market Success in Higher Education" *American Education Research Association (AERA);* Denver, Colorado
2023	"Enhancing Data-Informed Decision-making for College Success" *Western Political Science Association (WPSA);* San Francisco, California

Practitioner Conference

2025	"Learn by Doing: Work Based Learning" *EDFunders: Grantmakers for Education: Transformative Philanthropy and Visionary Leadership*; Memphis, Tennessee
2025	"Future Ready: The New Era of Postsecondary CTE" Postsecondary CTE Summit; Austin, Texas
2025	"Unveiling the Hidden College: A Systematic Literature Review of Noncredit Career and Technical Education" *Postsecondary CTE Summit*; Austin, Texas

Service and Engagement

Editorial Board

2025-Present	*The CTE Journal*
2024-2025	*American Journal of Education Forum*

Committees

2026-present	Women in Economics; Co-Chair for Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)
2026-present	Junior League of Austin; National
2025-present	Financial Aid Committee; University of Texas at Austin
2025-2026	Kendra Scott Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute; University of Texas at Austin
2024-2025	Graduate Student Assembly; University of Texas at Austin
2023-2024	Emerge Austin Leadership; Austin, Texas
2021-2023	Student Campus Computing; California Polytechnic State University
2021-2022	Campus Fee Advisory (Voting); California Polytechnic State University

Membership

AERA	American Educational Research Association
APPAM	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
SREE	Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
ACTE	Association for Career and Technical Education
AEFP	American Education Finance and Policy