Marc Fulmer
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March 8, 2024

Dear Professor Leder-Luis and Professor Tello-Trillo,

I am excited to apply to the NBER mentoring program for students pursuing research in aging and health economics. As a fourth year Ph.D. student at Michigan State University, I am currently working on developing my dissertation. What I am most eager to study are programs that provide assistance to individuals experiencing injury, illness, or disability.

My experience attending the inaugural conference of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession reinforced to me the many benefits of tailored and intensive mentoring opportunities. That is why I was delighted when I learned of the NBER mentoring program.

Thank you for your review of my application.

Best regards,



Marc Fulmer

MARC FULMER

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics: Michigan State University, May 2025 (*expected*)
M.A. in Economics: Michigan State University, May 2022
B.A. in Mathematical Economics: Temple University, May 2012

Completed Ph.D. Courses

Microeconomics I & II, Macroeconomics I & II, Econometrics IA & IB, Cross Section Econometrics I, Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics I & II, Growth, Development and Human Resources, Behavioral Economics, Advanced Macroeconomics

Dissertation Supervisor

Steven Haider
Professor of Economics and Department Chair
Michigan State University
517-355-5238
haider@msu.edu

Recent Experience

Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University
September 2021 – Present

- Promote successful course outcomes for hundreds of undergraduate students
- Help faculty with instructional and administrative tasks

Instructor, Michigan State University
May – June 2022

- Manage an online introductory macroeconomics course with about 90 students
- Facilitate student learning and develop student assessments

Awards

- *American Economic Association:* Mentee, Inaugural Conference of the Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession
- *Michigan State University:* University Distinguished Fellowship
- *Michigan State University:* Early Start Program, College of Social Science

Skills

Stata, LaTeX, HTML/CSS

Statement

My research interests center on the social insurance programs that support individuals experiencing injury, illness, or disability. This focus grew out of my own experiences prior to entering my Ph.D. program. In 2013, while working my first job out of college, I was injured in a car accident. This resulted in a disability that qualified me for benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance. As I slowly began to feel more capable of returning to work, I reflected on what path I wanted to take. This reflection led me to conclude that I desired to advance my training in economics, so I resolved to apply to Ph.D. programs. During the admissions process, Michigan State awarded me its University Distinguished Fellowship. I began my Ph.D. studies there in the fall of 2020.

The key motivation of mine in attending the NBER mentoring program is to receive additional direction on developing my dissertation, especially my job market paper. My research interests in aging and health economics align with my goal of obtaining a research position in these fields. I am particularly interested in the papers on disability by Nicole Maestas in the Program on the Economics of Aging. Michigan State, however, offers only limited training in aging and health economics. Attending the mentoring program will supplement my training by helping me refine my current and future research questions. This will lead me to write more compelling papers and support me in communicating more persuasively to potential employers.

I know that tailored and intensive mentoring opportunities can offer tremendous value to me. In the summer of 2023, I was fortunate to be able to attend the inaugural conference of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession (CSQIEP). As a gay man, attending the conference made me feel supported and valued within the economics profession. The conference offered discussion and advice specifically on the challenges faced by queer economists. My experience at the CSQIEP conference strengthened my commitment to inclusion within the economics profession. I will bring this perspective to the NBER's mentoring program, and I am enthusiastic to learn from and contribute to a diverse group of both mentees and mentors.