

Brandon Lehr

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Ph.D. Economics	2010
University of California at Berkeley , B.A. Highest Honors in Mathematics and Economics	2005

Academic Positions

Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs , Occidental College	July 2025-present
Professor of Economics , Occidental College	August 2026-present
Associate Professor of Economics , Occidental College	August 2017-July 2026
Interim Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs , Occidental College	July 2024-June 2025
Assistant Professor of Economics , Occidental College	September 2010-July 2017

Research

Fields: Public Finance, Behavioral Economics, and Applied Microeconomic Theory

Book

Behavioral Economics: Evidence, Theory, and Welfare, Routledge (2022).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Optimal Social Security with Loss Aversion.” *Public Finance Review* 53, no. 1 (2025): 62-93.

“Optimal Unemployment Insurance with Endogenous Negative Duration Dependence.” *Public Finance Review* 45, no. 3 (2017): 395-422.

“Optimal Social Insurance for Heterogeneous Agents with Private Insurance.” *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 83, no. 2 (2016): 301-333.

“Information and Inflation: An Analysis of Grading Behavior.” *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 16, no. 2 (2016): 755-783.

“Efficiency Wages with Heterogeneous Agents.” *International Game Theory Review* 16, no. 3 (2014): 145007-1-145007-23.

Working Papers

“Optimal Income Taxation with Social Preferences”

“Correction: Albrecht and Vroman’s Nonexistence Proof of Symmetric Nash Equilibrium with Efficiency Wages”

Awards, Grants, and Honors

2025	Janosik-Sterling Award for Distinguished Service, Occidental College
2019-26	Schwartz Scholar Grant, Occidental College
2011, ‘19, ‘20	Faculty Enrichment Grant, Occidental College
2018	Linda and Tod White Teaching Prize, Occidental College
2016	Faculty of the Year Award, Awarded by LGBTQA Students, Occidental College
2011-18	Robinson Scholar Grant, Occidental College
2013	MacArthur International Grant, Occidental College
2011	Mellon Digital Scholarship Summer Institute Grant, Occidental College
2009	James and Ruth Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, MIT
2009	Undergraduate Economics Association Teaching Award, MIT
2004	Junior Phi Beta Kappa, University of California at Berkeley
2001-05	Regents’ and Chancellor’s Scholarship, University of California at Berkeley

Professional Activities

Reviewer

Journal of Public Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Economica, International Tax and Public Finance, Eastern Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Education, Canadian Journal of Economics, The Geneva Risk and Insurance Review, Palgrave Macmillan Publishers

Conference Presentations

- 2015: Western Economic Association International, Honolulu; Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, Claremont McKenna College
- 2013: Western Economic Association International, Seattle
- 2012: Western Economic Association International, San Francisco
- 2011: Western Economic Association International, San Diego

Teaching

Occidental College

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Econ 250

Game Theory, Econ 305

Public Economics, Econ 308

Behavioral Economics, Econ 340

Research Seminar, Econ 498

Health and Humanity, Cultural Studies Program. *Co-Instructors:* Professor Clair Morrissey, Department of Philosophy & Professor Kristi Upson-Saia, Department of Religious Studies

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Economics Summer Math Camp, 14.00 (Ph.D.)

Principles of Microeconomics, 14.01

Teaching Assistant for Microeconomic Theory I, 14.121 (Ph.D.)

Teaching Assistant for Microeconomic Theory II, 14.122 (Ph.D.)

Summer Research Students

Sophia Fields '26

Miles Smith '23

Andrew McCall '19

Yiyun (Eva) Wang '18

Preston Harry '17

Samuel Cua '17

Jessica May '16

Aleksandra Radojevic '14

Megan Lang '13

Service to Occidental College

2024-26	Academic Planning Committee, Chair
2024-26	Core Program, Director
2023-26	Course Equivalency Working Group, Chair
2023-26	403(b) Retirement Plan Committee
2025-26	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2023-25	Investment Trustee Committee
2023-24	Academic Planning Committee
2023-24	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committees
2012-22	Budget and Strategic Advisory Committee
2019-21	Faculty Council and Liaison to Subcommittee on Finance
2016-22	Budget & Finance Trustee Committee
2020-21	College Cabinet

2020	Fall 2020 Planning Steering Committee
2019	President of the College Search Committee
2018-19	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2017-18	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee, Chair
2016-18	Subcommittee on Finance, Chair
2012-16	Subcommittee on Finance
2017	Faculty Learning Community on Structure and Process for Senior Comprehensive Courses
2016	Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College Search Committee
2016	Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College Search Subcommittee
2015	Faculty Learning Community on Quantitative Reasoning
2015	Merit Pay Task Force
2014-15	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2013	Undergraduate Summer Research Program, Area Coordinator
2012-13	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2011-12	Phi Beta Kappa, Secretary & Treasurer
2011-12	Emergency Preparedness Committee
2011-12	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee

Public Speaking

2019: Economic and Sociological Approaches to the Social Phenomenon of Poverty (with John Liu), Shared Objects Series at Occidental College

2016: Tax Policies of the 2016 Democratic Presidential Candidates, KCHUNG Radio Interview

2012: Death and Taxes: Fiscal Policy & the 2012 Presidential Election, Election Series Lecture at Occidental College; Pasadena Senior Curriculum Lecture; and Human Resources (broadcast on KCHUNG)

Last updated: August 26, 2026