

## CONTACT

✉ christen.black@bison.howard.edu

📍 nikosbestfriend

in Christen Black

☎ +1 (703) 338-2474

## SKILLS

R/ RStudio 5+ yrs

Latex 4+ yrs

Tutoring 3+ yrs

## COURSE WORK

### Microeconomic Theory II&III (Ph.D.)

A deep dive into producer, consumer & game theory.

In this course we looked at various consumer theories and focus in on how consumers best maximize their utility under constraints

### Macroeconomic Theory II&III (Ph.D.)

A deep dive into various models and the theories that drive these models

We learned about various models. Not only did we cover the basic fundamental theories but we also aimed the stay up to date on current theories and models such as Menu Costs. A model developed by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to explain price changes in an economy.

### Labor Economics I, II & III (Ph.D.)

Advanced labor market theory and applied empirical methods

Covered wage determination, labor supply and demand, discrimination, unions, and labor market inequality with emphasis on econometric applications and policy evaluation.

# CHRISTEN BLACK

Ph.D. Candidate - Economics

## EDUCATION

### Ph.D. Economics

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

2023 – 2026 (exp.)

- Advanced training in microeconomic theory, econometrics, and applied research contributing to dissertation work.

### M.A. Economics

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

2021 – 2023

- Graduate-level training in econometrics, statistical programming in R, and applied policy analysis.

### B.S. Economics

Hampton University, Hampton, VA

2015 – 2020

- Foundation in applied microeconomics, macroeconomics, and managerial economics; Dean's List (2019–2020).

## RESEARCH

### • Earnings Differentials of HBCU Graduates

- Examined earnings differentials between high school graduates who attended HBCUs and those who did not, analyzing their likelihood of earning more than peers who never attended college.
- Utilized restricted-access survey data and regression models to control for selection bias and family background effects.

### • What Impact Does Right to Work Have on Strikes?

- Used Difference-in-Differences to study the relationship between the effect of right-to-work laws and the relative frequency of strikes.

### • Do Unions Really Help Reduce Inequality?

- Focused on OECD countries to study the relationship between union density and income inequality as measured by the GINI index.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Board Secretary & Events Coordinator

Lorton Volunteer Fire Department, Lorton, VA

2024–Present

- Serve on the Board of Directors, supporting governance, documentation, and organizational planning.
- Coordinate community events and hall rentals that support outreach and operational revenue.

## Urban Economics I, II & III (Ph.D.)

### Urban theory, spatial economics, and applied policy analysis

Studied housing markets, land use, transportation, segregation, and local public finance using spatial data and empirical urban policy methods.

## Adjunct Instructor of Economics Hampton University, Hampton, VA

Summer 2024

- Taught Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics to undergraduate students.
- Designed course materials, assessments, and lectures aligned with departmental learning objectives.
- Provided academic mentoring and office hour support to promote student engagement and performance.

## Graduate Researcher Howard University, Washington, D.C.

2023–Present

- Conduct research in labor and urban economics with a focus on racial wage disparities, unionization, and the role of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).
- Collaborate with faculty on empirical projects using large-scale datasets and R for econometric modeling and visualization.

## Fellow, American Economic Association Summer Program (AEASP) Howard University / Federal Reserve Board

Summer 2025

- Selected as a competitive fellow for the AEA Summer Program focused on advancing underrepresented groups in economics.
- Helped students conduct econometrics research and presented findings to academic mentors and Federal Reserve economists and other institutions across DC.