

# Alex E. Combs

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## Education

- Ph.D., Public Policy and Administration** Expected 2018  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
University of Kentucky
- Master of Public Administration** August 2014  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
University of Kentucky
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, *magna cum laude*** May 2009  
Honors Scholar, Minor in Philosophy  
Eastern Kentucky University

## Research Interests

Education Policy (Postsecondary)  
Public Finance  
Public Choice  
Organizational Theory

## Research Experience

- Graduate Assistant** May-August 2015  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration
- Researched graduate school enrollment trends and industry best practices in marketing, recruitment, and enrollment management
  - Prepared a strategic plan for the department director
- Graduate Research Assistant** May-August 2014  
Dr. Merl Hackbart  
University of Kentucky
- Conducted research to assist with the preparation of a journal publication
  - State privatization – literature review and the collection and preparation of data

**Research Fellow** 2013-2014  
Council of State Governments

- Member of a research team tasked to complete a report on state privatization trends from 2003-2013 with a focus on education privatization
- Designed and administered a survey to obtain state privatization data nationwide and analyzed results

**Assistant Director of Research** 2011-2013  
Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

In partnership with George Mason University Center for the Advancement of Public Health

- Oversaw two annual deployments of a national survey of 10,000 college students to evaluate the effects of a leadership development and substance abuse prevention program
- Assisted in survey design/administration and analysis

## Teaching Experience

**Guest Lecturer** 2016  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration

- Government Information Systems, instructor - Dr. Eugenia Toma
- Conducted lecture on sources of data in higher education

**Teaching Assistant** 2015  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration

- Education: Economics and Policy, instructor - Dr. Eugenia Toma
- Assisted in the development of course syllabus and served as instructor for course section on higher education

**Consultant** 2009-2010  
Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

- Delivered over 200 presentations to more than 4,500 undergraduate and alumni stakeholders on topics including organizational theory, budgeting, strategic planning, academic performance, and philanthropy.

## Conference Presentations

Association of Education Finance and Policy, 2016. Denver, Colorado. "Does Close Count in Higher Education? Estimating the Effect of Distance on Degree Completion in Kentucky."

Association of Budgeting and Financial Management, 2014. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Co-presented with Nate Kratzer. "The State of Privatization: Identifying Trends and Determinants of State Government Privatization."

## Current Research Projects

Alex Combs. Estimating the Effect of Distance on Degree Completion in Kentucky

Alex Combs. The effect of NCLB sanctions on college attendance and academic performance

Alex Combs, & Nate Kratzer. The Determinants of State Government Privatization

Alex Combs. State financial aid policy: How allocation decisions between need- and merit-based aid impact college completion

Alex Combs. Organizational learning in higher education: Applying Bayesian decision theory to institutional performance targets

## Awards and Honors

Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship	2014-2016
Graduate School Travel Grant	2016
Graduate School Travel Grant	2014
Daniel Reedy Award for Outstanding M.P.A. Paper	2014
Policy Solutions Challenge USA, Second Place Regionals	2014
Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society (Required 3.8 Graduate GPA)	2014
Prevention Excellence Award (Educational programming)	2011
“Power of A” Silver Award (Educational programming)	2011

## Professional Experience

**Associate Director of Educational Programming** 2010-2013  
Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

- Developed curriculum, trained staff and volunteers, and supervised logistics for a three-day national leadership development program
- Co-managed educational staff and responsible for performance monitoring, educational program evaluation, and providing written and oral reports to board of directors

**Student Body President & Student Regent** 2008-2009  
Eastern Kentucky University

- Managed a department of the university and budget of \$300,000 to execute student initiatives, policy, and programming
- Represented a student body of 16,000 while working with University President and Board of Regents to assess and develop institutional policy
- Worked with state agencies and legislature to assess higher education policy and draft new legislation