

TRISTEN B. BEST

tristenbest6@gmail.com | (252) 876-8939 | [LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill, NC May 2025
Master of Public Policy; Track B: Policy Design & Impact Evaluation, Policy Field: Energy & Climate Policy

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill, NC May 2024
Bachelor of Science; Double Major in Economics (Concentration in Labor Economics) and Public Policy

UNC Exploring Economics in Scandinavia – Stockholm, Sweden & Athens, Greece May 2022 – July 2022

- Eight-week immersive study abroad program at DIS Stockholm on Comparative Economics & Global Inflation Risks
- Assessed the economic impacts of Scandinavian social policies and explored the Hellenic Financial Stability Fund

Honors and Awards

Carolina Research Scholar (2024), FDIC Academic Challenge National Finalist (2023), UNC Adventures in Economics Grant Recipient (2023), RHA Banquet Treasurer of the Year: Runner Up (2022), ACT NCRC Platinum Certification (2020)

Relevant Coursework

Economic Policy Analysis; Panel Data Methods; Research Design; Financial Markets; Data Visualization; Data Analysis Methods; Project Management Strategy; Econometrics; Human Design Thinking; Financial Accounting; Intro Programming

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

UNC IE Energy Transition Initiative, Graduate Student Policy Analyst – Chapel Hill, NC January 2025 – May 2025

- Conducted in-depth literature reviews to inform a theoretical framework for community clean energy planning in NC
- Led research design and project planning for a 6-month timeline involving structured qualitative survey data collection
- Coordinated with several NC based cross-sector partners to align resilience strategies and gather stakeholder input

U.S. International Trade Commission, International Economist Trainee – Washington, DC June 2024 – August 2024

- Lead international trade analyst on a 5-yr adequacy review conducting research on export markets and tariff treatments
- Assisted 17 analysts by cleaning energy data to assess GHG intensities of U.S.-produced steel and aluminum products
- Developed key figures and fact-finding summaries using trade atlas data for the public release of antidumping briefing

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Supervision Intern – Raleigh, NC May 2023 – August 2023

- Prepared written reports for capital market specialists on high-interest rate sensitivity for 200 - 400 basis point models
- Researched capital and asset quality compliance using quarterly call report and UBPR statistics for 6 component areas
- Actively participated in 3 executive-level board exit meetings and bank examinations at 4 complex financial institutions

FDIC Center for Financial Research, Financial Data Analyst – Chapel Hill, NC August 2022 – May 2023

- Co-authored a nationally selected working paper on depositor behavior, chosen from over 90 national team submissions
- Analyzed deposit composition using 20 years of quarterly panel data from 12,000+ U.S. banks to assess liquidity risks
- Presented research findings and policy recommendations to 30+ economists at FDIC Headquarters in Arlington, VA

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNC Department of Public Policy, Graduate Teaching Assistant – Chapel Hill, NC August 2024 – May 2025

- Supported instruction for data literacy labs serving nearly 360 first-year undergraduate students across multiple majors
- Facilitated skill-building in Excel, Tableau, and RStudio, emphasizing descriptive and inferential research methods
- Deliver feedback on 160+ weekly submissions to reinforce student understanding and improve data literacy skillsets

Coastal Carolina Riverwatch, Undergraduate Policy Analyst – Chapel Hill, NC August 2023 – December 2023

- Partnered with a 5-member team to research wetland degradation and effects on water quality in Carteret County, NC
- Utilized ArcGIS for geospatial analysis of 7 land use categories, providing valuable insights to municipal policymakers
- Presented findings to peers and industry professionals at the 2024 UNC Public Policy Experiential Education Showcase

Publication, USITC – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity Factfinding Study for Steel and Aluminum Products May 2024

- Cleaned multi source production, trade, and emissions data; aligned Scope 1 and Scope 2 boundaries
- Translated technical findings into charts and concise memos for staff briefings and public materials

TECHNICAL SKILLS & CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Technical Skills:** RStudio, Stata, Tableau, MS Excel, ArcGIS, Qualtrics, Adobe Illustrator, OneDrive, MS PowerPoint
- **Core Competencies:** Cross-Sector Collaboration, Data Storytelling, Quantitative Research, Regulatory Compliance