

# Alex Houtz

Macroeconomist

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🌐 [ahoutz.github.io](https://github.com/ahoutz)

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## Education

- 2020–date **University of Notre Dame**, *Ph.D.*, Economics (*expected Spring 2026*)  
2024 **University of Notre Dame**, *M.A.*, Economics  
2016–2019 **Montana State University**, *B.S.*, Economics, *Highest Honors*

## Working Papers

- 2025 ***Taming Volatility: Evaluating an NGDP Target***, in review at the *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*  
in progress ***Government Debt Shocks and Firm Financing***

## Professional Experience

- 2023 - date **Research Assistant - Cynthia Wu**, *University of Notre Dame*
- Conducted literature reviews on heterogeneous banking models in application to the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank.
  - Constructed and analyzed new state-level datasets from federal spending data, inflation and cost-of-living indices, and unemployment statistics.
  - Coordinated with coauthors and other research assistants to verify data construction processes and clarify methodology.
  - Extended and analyzed government security yield curves using data from the Bloomberg terminal.
  - Ensured data quality by inspecting for outliers, checking consistency with existing studies, and evaluating summary statistics.
- 2021–2022 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *University of Notre Dame*
- Conducted interactive recitation sessions for graduate Econometrics I and II.
  - Developed comprehensive weekly notes covering key topics, which were made available online to students.
  - Evaluated student progress through grading of problem sets and quizzes, providing constructive feedback.
  - Hosted regular office hours to offer personalized assistance, addressing student questions and clarifying challenging concepts outside of class time.
  - Received exceptional instructor evaluations with consistently high ratings of 5/5, 4.9/5, and 5/5, reflecting effectiveness in communication, teaching methodology, and student engagement.
  - Redesigned the recitation curriculum through the creation of notes, study material, and practice problems, which were then passed on to the next instructor.
- 2019 **Economic Development Intern**, *Great Falls Development Authority*
- Conducted research on companies to bring to the area, identifying key corporate figures, production locations, and company milestones.
  - Compiled comprehensive lists of local businesses with significant exposure outside the region, utilizing this data to assess vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic and prioritize support efforts for at-risk businesses.
  - Gained insight into how economic development NGOs operate and help grow the local economy.

## Awards and Fellowships

- 2023 **NBER HANK Workshop**, A funded workshop at the NBER to study HANK models and how to solve them.
- 2022 **Kaneb Center Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award**, This award recognizes graduate students who demonstrate excellent teaching at Notre Dame. I was nominated by Drew Creal for teaching the recitation section accompanying Econometrics I (PhD level).

## Technical Skills

Programming Python, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X