

Sara Esfahani

Clinical Professor of Economics, University of San Diego
Lecturer in Economics, University of California San Diego

Updated October 2026

Olin Hall 330, University of San Diego
Malk Hall 288, University of California San Diego
Website: saraesfahani.weebly.com

Phone: (419) 806-6003
Email: sesfahani@sandiego.edu
saesfahani@ucsd.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019–present **Clinical Professor of Economics**, University of San Diego, CA
2025–present **Lecturer, Department of Economics**, University of California San Diego, CA
2018–2019 **Assistant Professor of Economics**, Sam Houston State University, TX
2016–2017 **Lecturer, Department of Economics**, University of Notre Dame, IN

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY APPOINTMENTS

2021–present **Board Member**, Building Equity, Aspiration, Resilience, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

- Provide governance and strategic guidance in support of the organization’s mission, programs, and long-term priorities.

2012–2013 **Financial Risk Analyst & Time Series Specialist**, Huntington National Bank, Columbus, OH

- Applied econometric and time-series methods to support financial risk analysis and enterprise stress-testing activities.
- Contributed to the development and validation of stress-testing models and preparation of analyses used in Federal Reserve reporting.

2009–2010 **Consultant, Financial Department**, Shafayab Pharmaceutical Distribution, Tehran, Iran

EDUCATION

2013–2018 **Ph.D. in Economics**, University of Notre Dame
2013–2015 **M.A. in Economics**, University of Notre Dame
2010–2012 **M.A. in Economics**, Bowling Green State University
2005–2009 **B.S. in Economics**, Allameh Tabatabaei University of Tehran

TEACHING

University of San Diego: Statistics for Business and Economics, Applied Regression Analysis, Principles of Macroeconomics, Gender and Economics, Microfinance and Wealth Creation (Flex MBA), Economics Senior Capstone Course

University of California San Diego: Gender and Economics, Econometrics A, International Trade

Sam Houston State University: Principles of Macroeconomics

University of Notre Dame: Statistics for Economics

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Research Interests: Economic Growth, International Development, International Economics, and Gender Economics

- “Agricultural Misallocation: Mismeasurement, Misspecification, or Market Frictions?” — Manuscript in preparation.
- “Distortions or Sorting in Agricultural Intermediates? Theory and Evidence from Malawi Fertilizer Subsidies” — Manuscript in preparation.
- “Structural Change and Trade Costs” — Work in progress.
- “Structural Change in the Iranian Economy Under International Sanctions: A Case Study” — Case study in development.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2024	“Distortions or Sorting in Agricultural Intermediates? Theory and Evidence from Malawi Fertilizer Subsidies,” Annual WEAI Meeting, Seattle, WA
2023	“Distortions or Sorting in Agricultural Intermediates? Theory and Evidence from Malawi Fertilizer Subsidies,” KSB Research Conference, University of San Diego
2019	“Agricultural Misallocation: Mismeasurement, Misspecification, or Market Frictions?,” Workshop on Measurement Error and the Adoption of Agricultural Innovations, Paris School of Economics, France
2019	“Distortions or Sorting in Agricultural Intermediates? Theory and Evidence from Malawi Fertilizer Subsidies,” University of Houston, Houston, TX
2017	“Agricultural Misallocation: Mismeasurement, Misspecification, or Market Frictions?,” Canadian Economics Association Meeting, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATIONS

2024–present	Certified Management & Business Educator (CMBE) , Chartered Association of Business Schools
2019	Online Course Redesign Certification , Sam Houston State University
2017	Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate , Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame
2017	Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate , Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame
2012	International Tutor Training Program Certificate , Learning Commons, Bowling Green State University

SELECTED AWARDS AND GRANTS

2023	KSB Summer Research Grant , Knauss School of Business, University of San Diego
2021–2022	Faculty of the Year, Honorable Mention , Knauss School of Business, University of San Diego
2011, 2012	Second Place, Economics Student Paper Conference (two-time recipient), Bowling Green State University

SELECTED SERVICE

Professional Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer: *Economic Inquiry*; *Agribusiness: An International Journal*; and *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*

Selected Academic Leadership and Program Administration

- **University-Wide Knack Program Coordinator, Office of the Provost, USD (Aug 2025–current):** Collaborated with the Provost’s Office to monitor tutoring utilization, request fulfillment, and student-support needs across the campus. Conducted university-wide analyses combining Knack utilization data with USD institutional data; report findings to the Provost’s Office and help develop strategies to expand the program and address gaps in student support. Collaborated with associate deans across the College of Arts and Sciences, Knauss School of Business, and Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering to identify and respond to the academic-support needs of their students.
- **Member, Knauss Faculty Affairs Committee (2025–present):** Contributed to faculty governance and the review of policies and matters affecting faculty at the Knauss School of Business.
- **Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Clinical Faculty Rank and Promotion, Knauss School of Business, USD (2025–present):** Lead the development of a proposed Clinical Professor rank and associated promotion standards for clinical faculty within the Knauss School of Business. Coordinated faculty input and translate institutional priorities into clear criteria and recommendations for consideration through the school’s faculty-governance process.
- **University Senate Committee on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Matters, USD, Member (2023–2024); Chair (2024–present):** Led committee discussions and initiatives addressing the working conditions, professional development, recognition, and institutional support of non-tenure-track faculty. Led a university-wide survey of non-tenure-track faculty concerning their working conditions and institutional experiences; analyzed the findings and presented a report with recommendations to the University Senate Chair and Executive Committee.
- **Associate Chair, Department of Economics, University of San Diego (2023–2024):** Collaborated with the department chair on departmental operations, course transfer requests, faculty coordination, and student needs.
- **Member, Core Curriculum Committee (2020–2025):** Reviewed course proposals and curriculum matters for alignment with USD’s Core learning outcomes and requirements, gaining extensive familiarity with university-level curriculum review and approval processes.
- **Member, KSB Teaching and Learning Excellence Committee (2023–2025):** Supported initiatives promoting instructional innovation, teaching effectiveness, and student learning; served on the Teaching Awards Subcommittee to evaluate faculty nominations.
- **Member, Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Online Education (2024–2025):** Contributed to university recommendations concerning online education and authored sections addressing academic reputation, institutional mission, and appropriate oversight of online programs.
- **Economics Tutoring Program Coordinator, Department of Economics, USD (2019–2024):** Transitioned the department’s fully in-person, drop-in tutoring program to an online format during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently developed an expanded hybrid model offering both in-person and online support. Increased students’ access to flexible academic assistance while creating paid employment and professional-development opportunities for student tutors.

- **Faculty Advisor, Economics Council (2019–2024):** Advised a student-led organization through annual leadership transitions; partnered with Academic Advising and Student Success to organize economics-major and career workshops, alumni talks and Q&A sessions, and community-building events that helped students explore career opportunities and connect with one another.

SKILLS

Data Analysis and Visualization: Stata, R, SAS, MATLAB, EViews, and Tableau

Languages: English (fluent) and Farsi (native)