

Help students reach  
their academic  
potential



**Patricia Y. Lara ME '18 began her postsecondary education in the community college system. She currently works as an adjunct counseling instructor with opportunities to teach and counsel dual enrollment, first-year and formerly incarcerated students.**

The **Master of Education in Educational Counseling (EC)** program will prepare you for career success in academic advising and student affairs positions that require advanced counseling skills, especially in community colleges and four-year colleges or universities. Specifically focused on the higher education context, USC Rossier's curriculum is grounded in a student development theory perspective, rather than a psychology perspective. The program blends theory with practice — including fieldwork experience — to give you the foundation needed to build one-on-one relationships with students and help them achieve their goals.

*Both full-time and part-time options are available.*



48  
MINIMUM  
UNITS

21  
MONTHS TO  
COMPLETE  
(FULL-TIME)

### GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

The EC program's 210 hours of fieldwork will help you connect theory to practice under the supervision of a seasoned educational counselor. You will gain invaluable practical experience that will strengthen your professional philosophy and abilities. Through the master's seminar or thesis, you will further integrate learning from throughout the curriculum for a summative, reflective and forward-looking experience that will prepare you to enter the educational counseling field.

In addition to fieldwork, USC Rossier's graduate assistantships provide hands-on experience in higher education settings and preparation for your desired career upon graduation. While the majority of EC students participate in graduate assistantships on the USC campus, the city of Los Angeles is home to many colleges and universities. With the full support and guidance of our team, you will have the freedom to select and apply for an opportunity tailored to your personal goals. Graduate assistantship positions are compensated by an hourly wage, tuition remission, or, in the case of residential education, room and board.

### OPTIONAL: PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES SCHOOL COUNSELING CERTIFICATE (PPS-SC)

Following the completion of your master's degree, you can expand your professional opportunities for school counseling positions by completing the requirements to be recommended for a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) School Counseling credential. The requirements for the PPS-SC credential include the completion of 20 additional units through the PPS-SC Certificate.

### PROGRAM FACULTY



**Sheila Banuelos, EdD**  
Expert in academic advisement, assessment in higher education and student affairs.



**Richard D. Cortes, PhD**  
Expert on community college counseling, career development, student affairs, HSI/STEM program initiatives, and undocumented student experiences.



**Viannda M. Hawkins, EdD**  
Over 16 years of professional experience in academic advising, administration, supervision, and program management at the undergraduate level.



**Tatiana Melguizo, PhD**  
Expert in higher education, affirmative action, community colleges and college graduation rates.



**Kevin Anthony Meza, PhD**  
Twenty-five year career in higher education as a counselor and coordinator specializing in social class, ethnicity, access and social mobility through the community college system.



**Cynthia Mosqueda, EdD**  
Expert in community college counseling, first-year experience, first-generation and faculty professional development, community college advocacy and policy, and undocumented student initiatives and programming.



**Atheneus C. Ocampo, EdD**  
Extensive professional experience in community college counseling, identifying and addressing institutional and systemic barriers, and co-constructing inclusive spaces.

### SAMPLE COURSES

- Theories in Counseling
- The Counseling Process
- Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling
- Career Development: Theory and Practice
- The Community College
- Group Counseling: Theory and Practice
- Equity in College and Career Access

### TUITION

Tuition for 2022–23 is \$2,137 per unit.

### SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Scholarships ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 are awarded to exemplary applicants. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, demonstrated dedication to advancing educational equity and other distinguishing characteristics. Applicants who complete an application by rounds one or two will receive primary consideration.

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Online application
- Transcripts for application review from each postsecondary institution attended
- Official transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended
- Résumé/CV
- Personal statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- Interview (by invitation only)
- Timed writing assessment
- *International applicants only:* TOEFL or IELTS scores
- \$90 non-refundable application fee

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

|          | APPLICATION DEADLINE | INTERVIEW DATE            | NOTIFICATION DATE |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Round 1* | Nov. 1, 2022         | Dec. 16, 2022             | Jan. 6, 2023      |
| Round 2* | Jan. 15, 2023        | March 3, 2023             | March 10, 2023    |
| Round 3  | March 15, 2023       | April 21, 2023            | April 28, 2023    |
| Round 4† | April 15, 2023       | Ongoing until May 6, 2023 | Every two weeks   |

\*scholarship priority deadlines

†rolling admission, based on available space

# What sets the USC Rossier EC program apart?

**UNPARALLELED NETWORK:** Benefit from USC's renowned Trojan alumni network.

**FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION COUNSELING:** Gain an understanding of counseling in a specifically higher education context.

**EMPHASIS ON EQUITY AND ACCESS:** Learn how to affect change that supports and empowers historically marginalized populations to thrive in education.

**THEORY-TO-PRACTICE MODEL:** Use the theories you are learning in the classroom as a framework to make informed decisions in your fieldwork.

**PPS CREDENTIAL OPTION:** Complete the requirements to be recommended for a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential, positioning you for K-12 school counseling opportunities.

**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS:** Choose from a range of fieldwork and job opportunities through USC Rossier's strong network of community colleges and four-year colleges.

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES:** Receive mentorship and guidance on your specific research interests, with the option of completing a thesis under the direction of a faculty chair.

**COMMITTED FACULTY MENTORS:** Learn from leading professors and top practitioners in higher education who will support your growth and challenge your perspective both inside and outside the classroom.

## **YOUR MISSION AND OUR MISSION ALIGNED**

The USC Rossier School of Education prepares leaders to advance educational equity in urban settings and beyond. USC Rossier draws on innovative thinking and collaborative research to improve learning opportunities and outcomes, address disparities, challenge inequitable systems of power and solve the most intractable problems in education.

## **LEARN MORE USC ROSSIER OFFICE OF ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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213.740.0224

[usc.edu/ed-counseling](https://usc.edu/ed-counseling)