The PhD program in Urban Education Policy welcomes applicants whose policy interests are aligned with the Rossier School’s mission to improve learning in urban education locally, nationally, and globally and who plan to pursue careers as research scholars. Students in the program benefit from close interaction with a distinguished faculty, a collaborative research community, and a positive student culture. The four-year, full-time program is offered on a semester calendar, beginning in August. Courses are taught at USC’s University Park Campus.

The program features multi-disciplinary coursework that allows students to explore educational topics in depth while gaining exposure to diverse research methodologies. Students focus their work in the following concentration areas:

- K-12 Policy and Practice
- Education Psychology
- Higher Education Policy
- Teacher Education

**GRADUATE ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

All students receive a four-year financial assistance package that includes a graduate teaching and research assistantship requiring a work commitment of approximately 20 hours per week.

**Financial support includes:**

- $20,500-25,000 stipend per academic year (August-June)
- Approximately $6,800 in additional summer funding
- 12 units of tuition coverage per semester for all required coursework
- Health and dental benefits package
- Annual scholarly advancement fund for participation in academic conferences, research and professional development opportunities
DISTINCTIVE BENEFITS

Mentorship – Students prepare to become faculty members in an apprentice relationship with their faculty mentors, promoting the development of teaching, research, writing, presentation, and grant writing skills.

Individualized Program of Study – Students work closely with faculty mentors to select courses that reflect their research interests, with an interdisciplinary perspective that incorporates diverse research methodologies. Students can complete the program, including dissertation, in four years.

Diverse Student Body – Students come from a variety of backgrounds, making the program one of the most diverse in the country. Their experiences vary educationally, culturally, and professionally. Many students have previous experience as classroom teachers, student affairs professionals, graduate students, researchers, and education leaders.

International Study Tours and Conference Participation – Students gain an integrated understanding of global education as it relates to urban education policy from encounters in the classroom, on campus, and abroad. Recent international research trips have included Hong Kong, Beijing, Singapore, and Shanghai. In addition, students have opportunities to present their research at international conferences.

Post Graduation Placement - Recent graduates have accepted tenure-track positions, post-doctoral fellowships, and research and policy positions.

ADMISSION

Admission to the Rossier PhD program is competitive and selective. The Admissions Committee seeks students whose academic background and breadth of experience show unusual promise for success as an educational policy scholar.

The ideal candidate combines well-developed written and verbal communication skills with strong quantitative proficiency. We do not require an academic background in education. We prefer that applicants hold a Master’s degree and demonstrate research interests that are compatible with the Rossier School’s focus on urban education.

In order to be considered for admission, complete applications must be received by December 1 of each year.

"One of the many great aspects of being a graduate student at USC Rossier is selecting courses from a broad variety of disciplines. One day I am reading contemporary social theories by Bourdieu and Goffman, and the next day I am learning the intricacies of the census as it relates to public policy. The exciting part is how it all fits together, providing me a deeper understanding of education.”

Megan Chase
PhD Candidate

LEARN MORE
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