Patricia Y. Lara ME ’18 began her postsecondary education in the community college system. She is passionate about becoming an academic counselor to help students navigate college and reach their goals.

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 and practicum 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.
COMPARING THE EC AND PASA PROGRAMS

USC Rossier’s Educational Counseling and Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs programs are similar, but differ in focus. The EC program provides more depth in counseling while the PASA program provides more breadth in student affairs, with the option to take career-focused electives in student affairs, academic advising or athletics.

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.

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (PPS) CREDENTIAL

Expand your professional opportunities for K-12 school counseling positions by completing the requirements to be recommended for a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential. The requirements for the PPS credential include the completion of 19 additional units through the school counseling certificate program.

PASA COURSES

Management of Student Services in Higher Education
Legal Issues in the Administration of Higher Education
Applied Educational Ethnography
Three electives, examples include:
Student Disability Issues in Higher Education
Athletic Administration
Fiscal Support and Expenditure in Higher and Postsecondary Education
See the EC courses above identified with an * for additional elective options.

COURSES IN BOTH PROGRAMS

Foundations of Higher, Adult and Professional Education
Creating Communities of Interest
Student Affairs Work in College
Student Development in Higher Education
Politics of Difference
Research Methods and Data Analysis
Fieldwork in Higher, Adult and Professional Education
Higher Education Seminar or Thesis

EC COURSES

The Counseling Process*
Academic Advising in Postsecondary Education*
Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling
Theories in Counseling
Learning and Individual Differences
Career Development: Theory and Practice*
The Community College
Group Counseling: Theory and Practice

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Students in the Educational Counseling program fund their education in a number of ways:
- USC Rossier merit- and need-based scholarships: Scholarships range from $5,000 to $25,000. Candidates who submit an application by December 1 receive primary consideration.
- Scholarships funded by the University of Southern California and outside organizations
- Graduate assistantships: These positions are compensated by an hourly wage, tuition remission and, in the case of residential education, room and board.
- Federal and private loans

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Online application
- Résumé/CV
- Essay
- Two short-answer responses
- Official GRE test scores
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended
- International applicants only: TOEFL or IELTS scores
- $90 nonrefundable application fee

APPLICATION DEADLINES

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TUITION

Tuition for 2017-18 is $1,800 per unit.
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 effect 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 our 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.

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**YOUR MISSION AND OUR MISSION ALIGNED**

The USC Rossier School of Education prepares leaders to advance educational equity in urban settings and beyond. Ranked as one of the nation’s premier education schools by *U.S. News and World Report*, 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 ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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usc.edu/ed-counseling