Mabel Sanchez PhD '21 is a research assistant under the mentorship of faculty at the USC Rossier Center for Education, Identity and Social Justice. Her research is focused on academic achievement and issues related to intersectional identities such as race, religion and gender.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Education Policy (PhD) program will prepare you to excel as a scholar who conducts research to inform policies that will improve learning, equity and access for students across the nation and around the world. Utilizing USC Rossier’s mentorship model, you will work closely with a faculty adviser aligned with your research interests throughout all four years of the program. Additionally, you will benefit from the resources of a Tier 1 research university as well as a supportive student culture and school leadership that is committed to putting research into practice.
PROGRAM FACULTY

USC Rossier’s renowned faculty is committed to training the next generation of scholars and researchers to the highest standards. The school’s mission is reflected in the faculty’s varied research agendas in Higher Education, Education Psychology and K-12 Education Policy.

RESEARCH CENTERS

Through interdisciplinary partnerships and a commitment to equity, our research centers are improving access to education and creating new models for campus inclusivity.

- Pullias Center for Higher Education
- Center for Urban Education
- Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice
- USC Race and Equity Center
- Center for Education, Identity and Social Justice
- Center for Human-Applied Reasoning and the Internet of Things
- Center for Empowered Learning and Development with Technology
- Center for Engineering in Education
- Center for Education Policy, Equity and Governance

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Complete applications are due by December 1.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Online application
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution (master’s degree preferred)
- Statement of purpose
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score (no more than five years old)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Scanned copy of official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended
- $90 nonrefundable application fee

FACULTY

HIGHER EDUCATION

ESTEBA MARA BENSIOM
Professor of Education and Psychology
Role of social justice and identity in urban education
DARNELL COLE
Associate Professor of Education and Psychology
Innovations and applications of community cultural wealth and racial identity diversity, college student experiences, learning
SHAUN N. HARPER
Professor of Education and Psychology
Black and brown higher education and urban high schools; students success in higher education and urban high schools; boys and men of color; intercultural leadership
ADRIANNA KEZAR
Professor of Education and Psychology
Contextual factors in higher education institutions, leadership and teaching in creating change
TATIANA MELGUIZO
Assistant Professor of Education
Equity and Inclusion
JULIE MARSH
Assistant Professor of Education
Adequacy and equity in school finance; efficiency and productivity in the provision of educational services; K-12 educational reform
MORGAN POLIKOFF
Associate Professor of Education
Inequities in educational outcomes and policies; use of data to guide decision making; politics of educational reform

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

RON AVI ASTOR
Professor of Psychology and Education
Role of the physical, social-organizational and cultural contexts in schools related to different kinds of school violence
MARY HELEN IMORDING-YANG
Professor of Psychology and Education
Neural, psychophysiological and psychological bases of social emotions; self-awareness and culture and their implications for learning, development and schools

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Core block (all cohort students take the same seven core courses)
- Concentration block (education courses)
- Research block (methods courses)
- Cognate block (courses outside school of education)
- Dissertation block

COMPETITIVE FUNDING AND BENEFITS

All students admitted to the PhD program receive generous financial assistance for four years, including tuition, $32,000 annual stipend for work as a research or teaching assistant for 20 hours per week, health benefits and professional development opportunities. You have the option to apply for external fellowships and grants in lieu of the USC-provided stipend.

IN 2016, USC ROSSIER HAD THE HIGHEST ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDING PER FACULTY MEMBER OF ANY PRIVATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN THE NATION.
What sets the USC Rossier PhD program apart?

**WORLD-RENOWNED FACULTY:** Receive mentorship and support from leading faculty as you collaborate in interdisciplinary endeavors with major impact.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANTSHIPS:** Earn a stipend while conducting experience-building work as a research or teaching assistant.

**INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAM OF STUDY:** Choose courses in the second year that reflect your research interests, provide interdisciplinary perspectives and incorporate diverse methodologies.

**DIVERSE STUDENT BODY:** Benefit from the varied educational, cultural and professional experiences of your peers—many of whom have previous experience as classroom teachers, student affairs professionals, researchers and education leaders.

**COHORT MODEL:** Develop close bonds with your cohort as you take all classes together during your first year and then provide mutual support that will last throughout the program and beyond.

**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 PhD PROGRAM OFFICE**

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