DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN URBAN EDUCATION POLICY (PHD)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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.

YOUR MISSION AND OUR MISSION AlIGNED

The USC Rossier School of Education prepares leaders to advance educational equity in urban settings and beyond. One of the nation’s premier education schools and ranked #11 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.

DISTINCTIVE BENEFITS

WORLD-RENOVING 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 and 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.

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 also have the option to apply for external fellowships and grants in lieu of the USC-provided stipend.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Complete applications are due by December 1.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

▪ Online application
▪ Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution (master’s degree preferred)
▪ Personal statement
▪ Writing sample
▪ Three letters of recommendation
▪ Scanned copy of official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended
▪ $90 nonrefundable application fee
PROGRAM FACULTY

ADRIAN HUERTA  
Assistant Professor of Education; Pullias Center for Higher Education  
Boys and young men of color; college access and equity; gang-associated youth; sociocultural factors that promote educational equity

ADRIANNA KEZAR  
Dean's Professor in Higher Education and Director of the Pullias Center for Higher Education  
Change process in higher education institutions; role of leadership in creating change

TATIANA MELGUIZO  
Associate Professor of Education; Pullias Center for Higher Education  
Association of student trajectories and specific institutional characteristics on the persistence and educational outcomes of minority and low-income students

JULIE POSSELT  
Associate Professor of Education; Pullias Center for Higher Education  
Social and organizational analyses of equity, access and wellbeing in higher education; graduate education and the professoriate; research methods

JOHN BROOKS SLAUGHTER  
Professor of Education and Engineering; Pullias Center for Higher Education  
Higher education leadership; diversity and inclusion in higher education; historically marginalized groups in STEM; access and affordability

PATRICIA BURCH  
Professor of Education, PhD Program Chair and Co-Director of the Center on Education Policy, Equity and Governance  
Patterns and drivers of school commercialism; implications for the form and delivery of public education, with specific attention to equity and quality

KAREN SYMMS GALLAGHER  
Veronica and David Hagen Endowed Chair in Women’s Leadership  
Expert on educational policy and online education

ADAM KHO  
Assistant Professor of Education; Center on Education Policy, Equity and Governance  
School reform including school turnaround, school improvement, school choice and other education policies with special attention to equity