

Diana Torres

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Education

PhD, Higher Education and Organizational Change

June 2026

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Los Angeles, CA

- Advisor: Dr. Ozan Jaquette
- Received MA in June 2021 (Thesis: *"Whatever I Become is Because of Them": An Examination of the Literature on Latinx Immigrant Households' Development of College Aspirations*)

BA, Education and Sociology, Summa Cum Laude

June 2021

Concentration: Community Leadership, Policy, and Social Justice

University of California, Riverside (UCR)

Riverside, CA

Awards and Recognitions

- UCLA Cota-Robles Fellowship Recipient 2022-2026
 - Commencement Speaker, UCR School of Education 2021
 - UCR Chancellor's Honors List 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
 - UCR Dean's Academic Distinction Award 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
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Research Experience

Senior Fellow, Latino Policy and Politics Institute

September 2024 - Present

Los Angeles, CA

- Design and implement pre-, post-, and alumni surveys to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Policy Fellowship Program.
- Analyze survey data and develop memos to present key findings to internal leadership, external funders, and stakeholders to inform program improvements and strategic decision-making.

Higher Education Data Fellow, The Education Trust

April 2022 – September 2022

Washington, DC

- Used R to collect and clean College Scorecard, IPEDS, and Census data related to college access, affordability, outcomes.
- Collaborated with the Higher Education Research team in the creation of *CollegeResults.org* by analyzing data using Tableau to create interactive, user-friendly tables and maps.
- Created a Tableau Dashboard with visualizations that showcased debt-to-earnings ratios at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Graduate Research Assistant, UCLA School of Education

September 2021 – June 2022

Los Angeles, CA

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Ozan Jaquette

- Met monthly with the research team to discuss the current literature colleges exclusionary recruitment practices.
 - Extracted and organized data from colleges' student information request forms in order to analyze what type of students colleges target for recruitment efforts.
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Work Experience

Teaching Assistant, UCLA School of Education

January 2025 – April 2025

Course Title: EDUC 150A - Introduction to Quantitative Research in Education

- Facilitate students understanding of foundational statistical concepts and their application in education during discussion section and office hours.
- Provide guidance on statistical analysis using R.
- Assist in grading assignments and developing instructional materials.

Teaching Assistant, UCLA School of Education

September 2023 – December 2023

Course Title: EDUC 260A - Intro to Programming & Data Management Using R

- Assisted students in their development of knowledge on how to clean, manipulate, and conduct statistical analyses of datasets using the R programming language.
- Evaluated weekly problem sets and hosted weekly office hours to provide support and guidance to students.

Teaching Assistant, UCLA Inst. for Research on Labor

July 2023 – September 2023

Course Title: LBR STD 191A & 191B - Labor Studies Research in Action

- Guided students in conceptualizing, designing, and executing an applied research project aimed at understanding the experiences of working college students in Los Angeles County.
- Collaborated with the instructor to curate course content, including lecture and assignments.
- Evaluated students' writing assignments and provided timely feedback.

Intern, Riverside County Office of Education.

July 2019 – July 2021

Riverside, CA

- Presented college information at school sites to groups of over 100 students to inform them about pathways to college.
 - Organized county data using Excel for administrators to use in creating data-based curricula for counselors in Riverside County.
 - Helped orchestrate conferences for school counselors in Riverside County by contacting vendors, keeping track of registration, setting up rooms, and checking in attendees.
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Skills

- **Languages:** Fluent in English and Spanish
- **Technical:** Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Adobe InDesign
- **Computational:** R, ArcGIS Pro, Tableau