

October 16, 2017

Dear Dr. Duff, Thank you for agreeing to write letters of recommendation on my behalf. I have prepared this packet to provide you with information that may help you in the writing process.

In this packet I have included information about the programs that I will be applying to. For each program, I have included:

1. The application deadline
2. Type of letter submission format (electronic versus mail-in)
3. A short description of the program
4. Potential mentors and his or her research interest
5. My interest in the program
6. University program links

I have also included information about myself to help you as you evaluate my abilities and potential in graduate school. I have included:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Preliminary Statement of Purpose draft (for Ph.D. programs)
3. Undergraduate transcript

a. In my transcripts I've taken research methods with you and received an A.

In my application I will be emphasizing that:

- I am passionate about cultural and ethnic identity research in psychology
- Throughout my undergraduate experience I developed a strong foundation in research
- I can balance my coursework and all lab work successfully • I am passionate about research and am highly motivated and eager to learn
- I can work both independently and collaboratively

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me

Thank you, Patsy Rodriguez

Program Information				
Due Date	Format	School	Program	Page #
Dec. 1st	Online	UCSB	Culture And Development Education, Ph.D	4-5
Dec. 1st	Online	UCLA	Developmental Psychology, Ph.D	6-7
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Supplemental Materials				
			CV	11-17
			Ph.D Statement of Purpose for Developmental Psychology	18-22
			Ph.D Statement of Purpose in Education with an emphasis of Culture & Development	23-25

			Undergraduate Transcripts	Other PDF Attachment sent with packet.
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University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Due date: **November 29, 2017**

Recommendation letter format: **Online**

You will receive an email from UCSB prompting you to submit a letter on my behalf. Please let me know if you do not receive an email by November 8th.

Program: Culture And Development Education, Ph.D

“Culture and Development area take multidisciplinary research perspectives that bring anthropological, linguistic, psychological, and sociological theories to studies of children, youth and adults in cultural contexts of education and other lifeworld activities. Areas of specific focus include studies of lifelong learning and development as well as the socialization of children, youth, and adults from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds in a variety of national and international settings.

With a developmental focus specifically conduct research on the cultural contexts of development throughout the lifespan (from early childhood to adulthood), cross-cultural and cross-national comparative studies, and gender studies”.

1. Advisor: Dr. Laura Romo:

Research Interest: “Examines the impact of the mother-daughter relationship on .Latina adolescent well-being. Topics include how mother-daughter communication is associated with dating and sexuality outcomes, body image, and academic achievement and aspirations. A major focus of her work is how to design culturally appropriate family-based training workshops to improve communication between Latina mothers and daughters”.

Website: <https://education.ucsb.edu/research-faculty/bio?first=Laura&last=Romo>

2. Advisor: Dr. Rebeca Mireles-Rios:

Research Interest: “Examines the educational expectations of Latina/o students and the connection to parent and teacher support. She studies Latina/o adolescents perceptions of teacher support; the role of maternal expectations on education communication; and student trajectories into higher education. Examines inequalities in educational outcomes to understand the processes that can potentially increase Latina/o high school student college enrollment and retention rates”.

Website: <https://education.ucsb.edu/research-faculty/bio?first=Rebeca&last=Mireles%20Rios>

3. Advisor: Dr. Amy Kyratzis:

Research Interest: “Her research and that of her students’ focuses on children's discourse in naturally-occurring contexts such as friendship groups within nursery school classrooms, and peer cooperative learning groups within elementary school classrooms. One current research project examines how preschool- and kindergarten-aged bilingual Spanish-English speaking children of Mexican heritage in California use multimodal resources and code-switching between Spanish and English in peer interactions during classroom activities and free play to negotiate interactional footings and identities, and how their peer interactions and peer culture goals support their story-telling, literacy, and language learning”.

Website:<https://education.ucsb.edu/research-faculty/bio?first=Amy&last=Kyratzis>

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Due date: **November 29, 2017**

Recommendation letter format: **Online**

You will receive an email from UCLA prompting you to submit a letter on my behalf. Please let me know if you do not receive an email by November 8th.

Program: Developmental Psychology, Ph.D

“As an area of inquiry, Developmental Psychology concerns the emergence of behavior and knowledge in individuals and groups. The Developmental Psychology graduate program at UCLA represents the breadth of the discipline, ranging from infancy to adolescence. Students receive training in graduate level Cognitive, Social, Language, and Emotional Development. Our research, training, and coursework are united by core themes.

The goal of the program is to produce independent scholars, and incoming students are expected to become research-active quickly upon beginning the program. Support for student research is excellent. Students have access to the most advanced methods (including...school-based research and cross-cultural fieldwork in several countries) and resources for research in...family processes, peer influence and relationships, the study of culture and development.”

1. Advisor: Dr. Andrew Fuligni

Research interests: “Our mission is to conduct systematic research on the adjustment of adolescents from diverse ethnic and immigrant backgrounds. We employ multiple methods to explore issues such as family relationships, identity, discrimination, academic achievement, psychological well being, and physical health. Our goals are two-fold:

1. To provide useful information to policy makers and practitioners about the unique issues facing teenagers from ethnic minority and immigrant families.
2. To integrate an awareness of the role of ethnicity, immigration, and culture in the normative development of adolescents from all backgrounds.”

Lab Website: <https://www.semel.ucla.edu/aei>

2. Advisor: Dr. Patricia Greenfield

Research interests: “Our research explores how values, behavior and cognition are shaped by societies. Our cross cultural studies in Chiapas, Mexico, South Korea and Burma, Myanmar have investigated cognitive development within a changing social ecology that include variables such as urbanization, education and commercialization. We examine the relationship between intergenerational continuity of learning, innovation and cognitive development on the individual level.

As developmental psychologists we also explore virtual worlds to understand the

implications of this newest context for development and the implications it may have on a social dimension. Encompassing the broad areas of cognitive and social development, our topics have included sexual and racial discourse in online chat rooms and bulletin boards, online social peer interactions, television as a social agent, and policy pieces focusing on the internet, particularly in the pornography area.

Under a developmental perspective our research interests have extended out to other avenues some of which include Primatology studies, language acquisition and gender Studies.”

Lab Website: <http://socialecology.uci.edu/research/greenberger-chen>

3. Advisor: Dr. Jaana Juvonen

Research interests: “I study young teens’ relationships with their peers, and how these relationships are related to the development and adaptive functioning of youth. A central goal of my work is to understand the conditions and consequences of person-group mismatch. Most of my research is conducted in school settings.

Guided by a social-contextual perspective, I conceptualize schools and classrooms as ecological niches shaped by peer interactions and relationships. Much of recent research pertains to bullying. I have examined both the motives predicting bullying perpetration (dominance) and the social-cognitive mechanisms (self-blame) underlying the emotional plight of the targets of bullying. I also conduct research on peer groups norms and how they are related to adolescent behavior. My current collaborative research follows a large, ethnically diverse sample of students from 26 middle schools to the end of high school, examining the effects of school ethnic diversity on friendship formation, social identity development, prejudice, mental health, and school success.”

Faculty Page Website: <https://www.psych.ucla.edu/faculty/page/jjuvonen>

My interest: The relationship between culture/ ethnic-identity and development, cross-cultural studies of social development, cross-ethnic studies on identity development and peer interactions

UCLA Development Program Website: <https://www.psych.ucla.edu/graduate/areas-of-study/developmental-psychology>

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Due date: **November 29, 2017**

Recommendation letter format: **Online**

You will receive an email from UCI prompting you to submit a letter on my behalf. Please let me know if you do not receive an email by November 8th.

Program: Developmental Psychology, Ph.D

“Research in the area of developmental psychology focuses on the development of individuals across the life course as well as on the effects of the social, physical, and cultural contexts in which development takes place. Current research interests include child care and its effects on child development, transitions across the life course, the effects of divorce and custody arrangements, work and family, adaptive aging, culture and adolescent psychosocial development, relations between cognitive and emotional development, emotion regulation, and the development of health behavior during childhood and adolescence”.

1. Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Cauffman

Research interest: “Focuses on three interrelated concerns: (1) patterns of normative development in samples of community and delinquent youth; (2) delinquent behavior among adolescents and the implications for practice and policy; and (3) the mental health problems of juvenile offenders; with a special emphasis on sex differences in each of these domains. To develop more effective prevention and treatment strategies for youth offenders, we must first understand how individual and environmental factors interact. This understanding can be, and has been, used to inform legal Decision-making.

Lab website: <http://3dlab.psychology.uci.edu/>

2. Advisor: Dr. Ellen Greenberger

Research interest: “Examines family and peer experiences that are related to adolescent depression and problem behavior in various countries, cultures, and ethnic groups; the changing nature of parent-child relationships during the young adult years and the impact of these relationships on young adult outcomes; and family relationships that are conducive to the well-being of young adults and their parents in the parents’ middle adult years”.

Lab website: <http://socialecology.uci.edu/research/greenberger-chen>

3. Advisor: Nancy Guerra

Research interest: “Focuses on preventing youth violence and promoting healthy youth development”

Website: <http://faculty.sites.uci.edu/guerra/>

University of California, Riverside (UCR)

Due date: November 29, 2017

Recommendation letter format: Online

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Program: Developmental Psychology, Ph.D

“Developmental Psychology focuses on individual's development in various social contexts - families, peers, school, and culture. Emphasis is on longitudinal approaches and analyses of change and continuity across development”.

1. Advisor: Dr. Tuppett Yates

Research interest: “examines how adversity broadly, and child maltreatment in particular, influences developmental pathways toward psychopathology and competence. Employing diverse methods (e.g., behavioral observation, clinical interview, survey) with children and adolescents, my research centers on identifying the specific effects of childhood adversity across multiple levels of adaptation and influence (e.g., community, family, individual, physiological), as well as the developmental processes that underlie the emergence and patterning of these effects over time”.

Lab website: <http://www.psych.ucr.edu/faculty/yates/index.html>

2. Advisor: Dr. Cecilia Cheung

Research interest: “ Focused on the role of parents. In one line of research, I have examined the effects of parents’ involvement in children’s learning in the United States and China, with attention to the mechanisms underlying the effects. A second line has centered on the role of children’s disclosure of their everyday activities to parents in children’s academic adjustment, focusing on the contribution of the socialization context. In a third line of work, I have begun to investigate relationships in the classroom – specifically, children’s relatedness to teachers – to elucidate how the effects of such relationships on children’s achievement vary across cultures”.

Faculty Website: <http://www.psych.ucr.edu/faculty/cheung/index.html>

3. Advisor: Dr. Misaki Natsuaki

Research interest:” Trajectories of maladaptive behaviors, such as internalizing and externalizing problems, take an upward swing during the transition from childhood to adolescence. This increase in psychopathology coincides with a time that a wide array of biological and psychosocial challenges emerges in adolescents’ lives, including going through puberty, navigating a complex world of peers, and renegotiating the relationships with family members”.

Faculty Website: <http://www.psych.ucr.edu/faculty/natsuaki/index.html>

Patsy Karinna Rodriguez
 California State University, Long Beach
 [Phone #]
 [Email]

RESEARCH INTEREST

specific cultural beliefs and values are associated with adolescents social behaviors and emotions and their development. Another of my interests lies within investigating the influence of culture and ethnic-identity on importance of academic and social support in latino/a students and experiences coming from immigrant families. Family dynamics and the impact of risky family environments among children and adolescents. Specific cultural beliefs and values are associated with adolescents social behaviors and emotions and their development.

EDUCATION

2016 – Present B.A., Psychology. GPA: 3.60
 California State University Long Beach (CSULB),
 Long Beach, California.
 Expected graduation, May 2018

2011 – 2016 A.A., Psychology with Honors.
 Cerritos College
 Norwalk, California.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2016 – Present **The Culture and Violence Against Women Summary Project Laboratory**
 Research Assistant (August 2016 – Present)
Psychology Department, California State University of Long Beach
 (Principal Investigator: Dr. Courtney Ahrens).
Ethnocultural Influences on Women’s Experiences of and Responses to Intimate Partner Violence. Research funded by the National Institute of Justice that aims to identify cultural influences on intimate partner violence and cultural barriers to contacting the justice system. The work also serves to inform resource providers for how to best assist women experiencing violence. As a research assistant, I completed training in understanding the dynamics of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. My responsibilities in this lab have been detailed below for the appropriate project they served.

Duties included:

2016 – Present **Culture and Violence Project, Spanish Translator, Transcriber, and Reviewer**
 This project focused on translating, transcribing and reviewing all the participants Spanish audio interviews. My duties have included: working as a Spanish

transcriptionist, making sure all audio interviews have proper grammar and punctuation in Spanish. I also served as Spanish translator, all transcribed Spanish interviews were translated properly in English. Lastly, I also worked as a Spanish and English reviewer, I listened to all Spanish and English audios and reviewed completed transcripts and checked for correct format, grammar and punctuation.

- 2017 – Present **The Culture and Violence Against Women Summary Project, Team Leader**
 This project aimed to summarize all transcripts of survivor’s experiences with intimate partner violence. As a team leader, my duties for summary team included: organizing individually each assignment for the team member. Compiling an excel record sheet of completed assignments. Setting up meetings with my team members to discuss revisions on completed summaries.
- 2016-2017 **Recruitment Project**
 This project purpose was to recruit female participants for the Culture and Violence Survey project. As a research assistant, my duties have included: Assisting with recruitment efforts by delivering, mailing, and posting flyers to different community; tabling at events; develop women’s health brochures for tabling events.
- Summer -2016 **Voices and Faces Project, Coder**
 This project is focused on examining the experiences of sexual assault survivors to better inform responses to sexual assault and promote well-being for sexual assault survivors. My duties have included: training in qualitative coding, observing coding sessions, coding transcripts, discussing coding disagreements, and reviewing previously coded transcripts.
- Summer-2017 **The Child and Adolescent Development Laboratory**
 Research Assistant (July 2017- August 2017)
Education Department, University of California Santa Barbara
 (Principal Investigator: Dr. Laura Romo).
Impact of The Mother-Daughter Relationship on Latina Adolescent Well-Being. Research funded by a major grant from the National Institute of Health. The main focus of this lab is to work with community agencies in Santa Barbara, including Girls, Inc. and La Casa de la Raza, to develop and implement family-based sex education programs for low-income, mostly immigrant, Mexican- origin m others and daughters.

*Duties included:***Mother-Daughter Relationship Project, Coder & Transcriber**

This project aimed to examine the relationship between mother and daughter in specifically, the dating rules that were implemented by the mothers of the adolescent participants. As a research assistant, my general lab duties have included: data collection, transcribing and translating Spanish interview transcripts. Assisted with the development of the codebook, and assisted with coding.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE POSTERS

Ari, S., Altamirano, V., **Rodriguez P.**, Gearhart, C., Ahrens, C. (2017). Mexican Migrant Survivors' Reasons for Staying in or Leaving Abusive Relationships: A Pilot Study. Poster presented at the National Multicultural Conference, Portland, OR.

Milton Enríquez, **Rodríguez P.**, Rodríguez T. (2017). Females Perception on Physical Attractiveness and Socioeconomic Status on Men. Poster Presented at the Western Psychological Association Conference, Sacramento, CA.

Rodriguez P., Rodriguez T. The Beliefs of Rape Myth Acceptance & Attitudes Towards Sexual Assault Based on Gender. **Will present** at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

PRESENTATIONS**(Continued)**

Rodriguez, P., Altamirano, V., Ari, S., Gearhart, V., & Ahrens, C. (2016, July). The Barriers that Affect Mexican-American Survivors' Decision to Stay in an Abusive Relationship. Poster presented at California State University Long Beach BUILD Symposium. Long Beach, CA.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 – Present **Intern- Low-Cost Community Counseling Center**

I work with clients who are referred from the Division of Children and Family Services. I take case notes during therapy sessions of each client. I assess and attend weekly supervision meetings to address the cases of the clients.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2015 – 2016 **Psychology Club Officer/ Social Ambassador**, Cerritos College I was in charge of informing students of the resources, the psychology club offered. I recruited students to be part of the psychology club. Collaborated with psychology club cabinet members to plan events, and helped with the preparation of psychology day.

2015 – 2016 **Supporting Parent in College Education Club Officer/Treasurer**, Cerritos

College. I was responsible for the club's money and its collection. I kept the financial report when requested. I attended meetings and discussed ways to develop fundraisers ideas.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2017 **Alumni Guest Speaker**

Cerritos College, Norwalk California

I was invited by the department of Psychology at Cerritos College to attend as a guest speaker. I presented my academic journey as a BUILD student at California State University of Long Beach. I shared my personal experiences as a research assistant, and gave information about the type of research I'm currently working in.

2016 **Social Hour Committee at Cerritos College Psychology Day Conference**

Cerritos College, Norwalk, California

I assisted in helping the Psychology Club organize the conference. Took part in organizing the social hour event, such as Stroop effect and memory games. I attended poster presentations, student panel alumni and research presentations from professors.

2016 **Women in Psychology Transforming Communities: Participatory Action Workshop** *Cerritos College, Norwalk, California*

Acknowledged women who created social change in their communities. Discussed women who have made an impact in the society with their research.

2016 **Research Workshop Cerritos College Leadership Conference**

Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula, California

Developed skills necessary for student's leadership positions in campus. Participated in sessions that introduce new ideas, challenge way of thinking, and empower to male students make a difference.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2015 – 2016 **Metropolitan State Hospital**
Volunteered at a mental health hospital through the psychology club at Cerritos college. Interacted with patients and helped them with their needs.
- 2002 – 2003 **Norwalk Meadows Center**
Volunteered at a convalescent home center for the elderly. I assisted the director with the social hour activities of the patients.

SCHOLARSHIPS / AWARDS

- 2017- Spring **President's List- Award (GPA 3.75-4.0)**
California State University, Long Beach
- 2017- Fall **Dean's List- Award (GPA 3.5-3.75)**
California State University, Long Beach
- 2016 **Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD)**
California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, California
Selected for a two-year research program aimed to prepare minority students for doctorate level education, funded by the National Institute of Health. Participate in faculty-mentored research and weekly learning community seminars. Award includes monthly stipends and conference funds.
- 2016 **La Palma- Cerritos American Association of University Women Scholarship**
Cerritos College, Norwalk, California
Selected as an outstanding Cerritos College women transferring to a four-year university. Monetary award of \$1,000
- 2016 **Extended Opportunity & Services Grant Award**
Cerritos College, Norwalk, California
Recognized for earning between a 3.5 - 4.0 GPA Monetary award \$200.00
- 2016 **Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition**
Cerritos College, Norwalk, California
Recognized for my academic achievements.
- 2016 **Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos Scholarship**
Cerritos College, Norwalk, California
Received scholarship based on academic casements and being first generation to

attend college. Monetary award \$500.00

- 2015 **Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos Scholarship**
Cerritos College, Norwalk, California
 Selected recipient for my outstanding academic achievements. Monetary award of \$750.00

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- 2017 – Present Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology student member
 2017 – Present Golden Key International Honour Society student member
 2017 – Present Society for Personality and Social Psychology student member
 2016 – Present Psi Beta National Honors Society in Psychology for Community College student member
 2015 – Present Association for Women in Psychology student member

CERTIFICATIONS AND RESEARCH TRAINING

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)

Certified to work with human subjects in social and behavioral research.

Responsible Conduct of Research Training (RCR)

Completed the training for core norms, principles, rules, and regulations of research.

REFERENCES

Kimberley J. Duff, Ph.D.
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Statement of Purpose (Ph.D. Programs)

My interest in psychology and research stems from a unique experience growing up. I come from a small family that migrated to the United States from Mexico. Spanish was our primary language in our home. I'm a first generation, Latina college student who learned English as a second language and who has overcome a language barrier. Growing up, in a Mexican-American family has given me the opportunity to understand the importance of culture, family obligation and ethnic identity. Being the first in my family to attend college, and facing a lack of familial support towards my education has sparked my interest to research and understand the importance of academic and social support in a Latino/a student's development particularly those coming from immigrant families. My other research interest lies within examining both positive and negative outcomes of varying levels of parent academic and social support in children and adolescents lives. My goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in developmental psychology to master my research skills on the influence of culture, ethnic-identity and the importance of parental social support in children and adolescents. Although my classes in psychology as an undergraduate student have given me the knowledge to better understand the factors that play in development, culture, ethnicity, I want to learn more and actively participate in developing theories. Moreover, my commitment and determination to pursue a Ph.D in developmental psychology lead me to pursue a highly selected intensive research training as an undergraduate student at California State University Long Beach; not knowing it would become a passion developed from extensive experience gained through simultaneously working in a research lab for nearly two years.

I began my research journey by applying to a competitive undergraduate intensive research program. I was one of the few who were selected to be part of the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) program at California State University Long Beach. A program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This intensive research-training program aims to prepare students for a doctoral program in health-related research. In that past 2 years being part of this program has prepared me to pursue a doctoral program in developmental psychology. I began working as a research assistant in Dr. Courtney Ahrens Culture and Violence Against Women laboratory where I was thrust into a research project aimed to examine the cultural and societal influences on women's experiences of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. The project we are currently working on is significant because it will give us a better understanding of why victims of intimate partner violence remain in abusive relationships. In particular, our goal as a research team is to understand the needs of domestic violence survivors from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Furthermore, my two-yearlong allowed me to engage in many stages of research and develop a passion for it. In the first stage, working in this lab gave me the opportunity to give back to the community and help victims of IPV. It has also given me the knowledge through gaining experience in qualitative research. I was part of a research project that examined "Mexican Migrant Survivor's Reasons for Staying in or Leaving Abusive Relationships". Our thematic qualitative analysis of survivor's narratives revealed three major barriers to leaving

abusive partners (nowhere to go, financial constraints, and inadequate job skills). Four major facilitators of staying with their abusive partners were also identified by (cultural beliefs, learned hopefulness, family unity and love). This project allowed me to work heavily on data collection and data coding. I was able to gain experience using a software application Dedoose, that was used for the coding analysis. In addition, I have expertise in transcribing and translating Spanish interviews into English. Through my commitment and based on my hard work, I was offered a team leader position for a team aimed to create summaries of all participants transcripts. As a team leader, my duties for summary team included, organizing individually each assignment for the team member. Compiling an excel record sheet of completed assignments, and setting up meetings with my team members to discuss revisions on completed summaries.

I've also made a great contribution to my lab by recruiting participants that come from diverse backgrounds. I've excelled in my communication skills by doing in-person presentations of our research to human services agencies, private practices, and community development corporations. By doing these presentations that I have been part of we have been able to collaborate with them so we can better assist victims of IPV. Throughout the stages of this project, I learned I had a passion for research and a passion for examining culture, relationships, and identity. I realized my drive and passion to devote so much effort stemmed from the fact that I felt a personal connection to the topics in question due to my experiences with my culture. Throughout the stages of these projects it has allowed me to present my research findings in multiple conferences. I'm also working in an independent project that examines the impact of culture beliefs on rape myth acceptance among college students. I'm currently in the process of data collection. This independent project has allowed me to gain experience using the SONA system which is an online database that allows researchers at CSULB to recruit participants for their studies. I look forward to my research findings, this is particularly exciting because I have put all the hard work into creating and revising this study. Every step before this revolved around speculating and hypothesizing what would be revealed and to finally be so close to observe what my findings will conclude is almost too exciting. My future findings will allow me to present next year at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference and my future direction to my independent research is to publish in an undergraduate journal.

I continued to develop my interest and research experience and decided to apply for a summer research program at *University of California Santa Barbara* in the summer of 2017. As I made the transition to move to Santa Barbara for the whole summer, I was given the opportunity to work in Dr. Romo's Child and Adolescent Development Laboratory. This project aimed to examine the relationship between mother and daughter in specifically, the dating rules that were implemented by the mothers of the adolescent participants. We also examined if the relationship between mother and daughter deferred among mothers who spoke Spanish versus mothers who spoke English. Our findings revealed that there were some differences between English- and Spanish-speaking mothers in how they speak with their daughters. However, mothers overall agreed on important factors to consider when dating including age and boyfriend characteristics. Both English- and Spanish-speaking mothers reported that they would like to have open

communication with their daughters when they start dating. With these findings came my favorite step, putting together an oral presentation detailing our work and presenting it to my mentor Dr. Romo. Presenting research is my favorite step because it allows for all the hard work to be shared with others in the hopes that future research and even personal interactions can be improved. Furthermore, working in this laboratory strengthen my passion for research. I was able to improve my research skills. In each aspect of research, whether it be overseeing data collection, conducting data analyses or creating an oral presentation.

My combined work in these research labs has prepared me for the formidable task that is graduate school. Graduate school requires a high level of commitment and self-discipline and I believe I gained these traits through working extensively in two research labs while also balancing my undergraduate coursework. My goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in developmental psychology. With a purpose to work in academia as a professor and continue conducting my own research. Of my wide range of interests, I intend to study the influence of culture and ethnic-identity on importance of social support in a student's college experience coming from immigrant families. Another of my interests lies within investigating the influence of culture, ethnic-identity and the importance of parent social support in children and adolescents. By expanding research to other cultures and identifying nuances between ethnic groups, I believe this research can inform current theories of development. This intersectional approach can allow for greater representation in our understanding of development.

UCLA conclusion:

I am interested in the University of California in Los Angeles's developmental psychology program because of the focus of culture and ethnicity on development by faculty members, specifically Dr. Andrew Fuligni, Dr. Patricia Greenfield and Jaana Juvonen. Dr. Fuligni's body of work fascinates me, his work on familial and cultural influences in the daily experiences of adolescents and immigrants as well as college persistence are of particularly interest to me. I strongly feel that his line of work fits perfectly with my research interest. Since I am also interested in examining the culture's influence on adolescents and immigrants. I too strive to one-day work and conduct my own research that focuses on the immigration population. Dr. Fuligni could be a great advisor that would give me the necessary tools to become an expert in this specific research of my interest. I was also intrigued by Dr. Greenfield's research which examines differences among East Asian families and the influence sociodemographic factors have on beliefs generally considered to be products of culture. I was fascinated by her cultural studies that she has expanded in Mexico, South Korea, and Burma. I would be interested in expanding this line of cross-cultural work with Dr. Greenfield as an advisor. Dr. Juvonen's work regarding bullying, friendship formation, and social identity development of students in an ethnically diverse school is also of interest to me. If given the opportunity, I am confident that I could learn a tremendous amount from each advisor and from the program as a whole. With the knowledge gained from this program and my passion for cultural and social identity and behavior research, I could in turn contribute to the UCLA's developmental psychology field.

UCI conclusion:

I am interested in the University of California Irvine developmental psychology program because of the focus on work and family, culture, and adolescent psychosocial development by faculty members specifically, Dr. Ellen Greenberger, Dr. Elizabeth Cauffman, and Nancy Guerra's. Dr. Greenberger's body of work fascinates me, her work on the changing nature of parent child relationships during the young adult years and the impact of these relationships on young adult outcomes; and family relationships. I strongly feel that his line of work fits perfectly with my research interest. Since I am interested in examining the importance and positive outcomes of parent academic and social support in children and adolescents lives. But also, to examine the negative outcomes and the lack of parent academic and social support in children and adolescents lives. I too strive to one-day work and conduct my own research that focuses on parent child relationships during the young adult years and the impact of these relationships on young adult outcomes. Dr. Greenberger could be a great advisor that would give me the necessary tools to become an expert in this specific research of my interest. I was also intrigued by Dr. Cauffman's research which examines delinquent behavior among adolescents. I was fascinated by her line of research and feel that my research interest can also align with hers. Dr. Guerra's, work regarding the prevention of youth violence and promoting healthy youth development is also of interest to me. If given the opportunity, I am confident that I could learn a tremendous amount from each advisor and from the program as a whole. With the knowledge gained from this program and my passion for cultural and social identity and behavior research, I could in turn contribute to the UCI's developmental psychology field.

UCR conclusion:

I am interested in the University of California Riverside developmental psychology program because of the focus on individual's development in various social contexts, families, peers, school, and culture on development by by faculty members specifically, Tuppett Yates, and Cecilia Cheung. Dr. Tuppett Yates body of work on specific effects of childhood adversity across multiple levels of adaptation and influence on community, family, individual, and physiological interests me. I strongly feel that her line of work fits perfectly with my research interest. Since I am interested in effects of childhood and adolescents face when they live in a unhealthy family environments. I too one-day strive to work and conduct my own research that focuses on child adversity and how it affects their development over time. Dr. Yate's, could be a great advisor that would give me the necessary tools to become an expert in this specific research of my interest. I was also intrigued by Dr. Cheung's research which examines the effects of parents' involvement in children's learning in the United States and China. I also think her research aligned with my other research of interest to understand the importance and positive outcomes of parents academic and social support in children and adolescents lives. But also, to examine the negative outcomes and the lack of parent academic and social support in children

and adolescents lives. I would be interested in expanding this line of cross-cultural work with Dr. Cheung as an advisor. If given the opportunity, I am confident that I could learn a tremendous amount from each advisor and from the program as a whole. With the knowledge gained from this program and my passion for cultural and social identity and behavior research, I could in turn contribute to the UCR's developmental psychology field.

Statement of Purpose Draft UCSB (Ph.D. Program)

My interest in psychology and research stems from a unique experience growing up. I come from a small family that migrated to the United States from Mexico. Spanish was our primary language in our home. I'm a first generation, Latina college student who learned English as a second language who has overcome a language barrier. Growing up, in a Mexican-American family has given me the opportunity to understand the importance of culture, family obligation and ethnic identity. In my personal experience being the first in my family to attend college, who lacked the family support towards my education has sparked my interest to further research and understand the importance of academic and social support in latina/o students and experiences coming from latino immigrant families. It has also sparked my interest in learning more about the study of culture and socio-emotional development. Although my classes in psychology have given me the knowledge to better understand the factors that play in development, culture, ethnicity I wasn't satisfied learning about theories; I wanted to actively participate in developing theories. Which lead me to pursue a highly selected intensive research training as an undergraduate student at California State University Long Beach; not knowing it would become a passion developed from extensive experience gained through simultaneously working in research lab for nearly 2 years.

I began my research journey by applying to a competitive undergraduate intensive research program. I was one of the few who was selected to be part of the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) program at California State University Long Beach. A program funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH). This intensive research-training is to prepare students for a doctoral program in health-related research. In that past 2 years being part of this program has prepared me to continue my education and research in the department of at the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education.

I began working as research assistant in Dr. Courtney Ahrens Culture and Violence Against Women laboratory where I was thrust into a research project aimed to examine the cultural and societal influences on women's experiences of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. The project we are currently working on is significant because it will give us a better understanding of why victims of intimate partner violence remain in abusive relationships. In particular, our goal as a research team is to understand the needs of domestic violence survivors from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Furthermore, my 2-year long work leading this project allowed me to engage in the many stages of research and developed a passion for it. In the first stage working in this lab gave me the opportunity to give back to the community and help victims of IPV. But it has also given me then knowledge through gaining experience in qualitative research. I was part of a research project that examined "Mexican Migrant Survivor's Reasons for Staying in or Leaving Abusive Relationships". Our thematic qualitative analysis of survivor's narratives revealed three major barriers to leaving abusive partners (nowhere to go, financial constraints, and inadequate job skills). Four major facilitators of staying with their abusive partners were also identified by

(cultural beliefs, learned hopefulness, family unity and love). This project allowed work heavily on data collection and data coding. I was able to gain experience using a software application Dedoose, that was used for the coding analysis. In addition, I have expertise in transcribing and translating Spanish interviews into English. Through my commitment and based on my hard work, I was offered a team leader position for a team aimed to create summaries of all participants transcripts. As a team leader, my duties for summary team included, organizing individually each assignment for the team member. Compiling an excel record sheet of completed assignments. Setting up meetings with my team members to discuss revisions on completed summaries.

I have also been a great contributor in recruiting participants that come from diverse backgrounds. I have also excelled in my communication skills by doing in-person presentations of our research to human services agencies, private practices, and community development corporations. By doing these presentations that I have been part of we have been able to collaborate with them so we can better assist victims of IPV. Throughout the stages of this project, I learned I had a passion for research and a passion for examining culture values and beliefs. I realized my drive and passion devote so much effort stemmed from the fact that I felt a personal connection to the topics in question due to my experiences with my culture. Throughout the stages of these projects it has allowed me to present my research findings in multiple conferences. I'm also working in an independent project that examines The Impact of Culture Beliefs on Rape Myth acceptance among college students. I'm currently in the process of data collection. This independent project has allowed me to gain experience using the SONA system which is an online database that allows researchers at CSULB to recruit participants for their studies. I look forward to my research findings, this is particularly exciting because I have put all the hard work into creating and revising this study. Every step before this revolved around speculating and hypothesizing what would be revealed and to finally be so close to observe what my findings will conclude is almost too exciting. My future findings will allow me to present next year at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference. And my future direction to my independent research is to publish in an undergraduate journal.

I continued to develop my interest and research experience and decided to apply for a summer research program at *University of California Santa Barbara*. As I made the transition to move to Santa Barbara for the whole summer, I was given the opportunity to work in Dr. Romo's Child and Adolescent Development Laboratory. This project aimed to examine the relationship between mother and daughter in specifically, the dating rules that were implemented by the mothers of the adolescent participants. We also examined if the relationship between mother and daughter deferred among mothers who spoke Spanish versus mothers who spoke English. Our findings revealed that there were some differences between English- and Spanish-speaking mothers in how they speak with their daughters. However, mothers overall agreed on important factors to consider when dating including age and boyfriend characteristics. Both English- and Spanish-speaking mothers reported that they would like to have open communication with their daughters when they start dating. With these findings came my favorite step, putting together

An oral presentation detailing our work and presenting it to my mentor Dr. Romo. Presenting research is my favorite step because it allows for all the hard work to be shared with others in the hopes that future research and even personal interactions can be improved. Furthermore, working in this laboratory strengthen my passion for research. I was able to improve my research skills. In each aspect of research, whether it be overseeing data collection, conducting data analyses or creating an oral presentation.

My combined work in these research labs have prepared me for the formidable task that is graduate school. Graduate school requires a high level of commitment and self-discipline and I believe I gained these traits through working extensively in two research labs while also balancing my undergraduate coursework. My goal is to pursue a doctoral program in Education with an emphasis on culture and development. With a purpose to work in academia as a professor and continue conducting my own research. Of my wide range of interests, I intend to study what specific cultural beliefs and values are associated with adolescents social behaviors and emotions and their development. Another of my interests lies within investigating the influence of culture and ethnic-identity on importance of social support in a student's college experience coming from immigrant families. By expanding research to other cultures and identifying nuances between ethnic groups, I believe my future research can contribute to closing the gaps that exist in the study of culture and socio-emotional development. This intersectional approach can allow for greater representation in our understanding of development.

My experience in research has furthered my interest in conducting research at the University of California Santa Barbara's doctoral program in education with an emphasis in culture and development. I am interested in working under the mentorship of Professor Laura Romo. I have worked in Dr. Romo's lab for the summer and I'm passionate with the type of research she is examining in specifically the "Mother and Daughter Conflict" project. Working in this project independently over the summer reaffirms my passion for research focused on cultural beliefs and values are associated with adolescents social behaviors and emotions and their development. I'm also interested in working with Dr. Mireles-Rios her research that Examines the educational expectations of Latina/o students and the connection to parent and teacher support also aligns with my interest in researching the importance of social and academic support in latina/o students and experiences coming from latino immigrant families. My extensive research experiences on and my community involvement with students reaffirms my passion for research. I am enthused to further expand my knowledge and create knowledge in the field of education. Ultimately, the training I gain and research I produce by completing a doctoral degree in education at UCSB will help towards my goals of becoming a professor who engages in research, mentoring and teaching. My ultimate goal is to eventually teach students all the while cultivating my surrounding community in hopes of promoting higher education among future generations. Thank you for your consideration to the University of California Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education.

