Stanford



Alma Rodriguez

- Ph.D. Student in Education, admitted Autumn 2024
- Research Asst - Graduate, Qiu Program

Bio

BIO

Alma Rodriguez is a third-year Ph.D. candidate at Stanford's Graduate School of Education, specializing in Sociology of Education under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Lising Antonio and Rebecca Tarlau. Alma is a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipient who earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interest focuses on the undocumented student population. During her undergrad, Alma completed her senior honor's thesis under the supervision of the Sociology department at UC Berkeley.

At Stanford University, Alma's research sits at the intersection of social movements, undocumented student activism, and higher education. Her work examines how undocumented students in California engage in hidden forms of activism and strategic adaptation, navigating visibility, risk, and resistance in response to shifting political climates. Drawing on non-visible, everyday activism and social movement scholarship, Alma explores how undocumented students resist, and continue to exercise their political voice when visibility imposes existential risks.

A qualitative scholar, Alma conducts ethnographic fieldwork inside Dream Centers, centering the lived experiences and political agency of undocumented students as her primary unit of analysis.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Student Leadership Award, President's Alliance in Higher Education and Immigration (September 2025)
- Chicana Latina Foundation Scholarship Recipient, Chicana Latina Foundation (June 2026)
- James W. Lyons Award for Service Awardee, Stanford University (May 2026)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Femtor, Montoya Scholars (2026 - present)
- President, Chicano Latino Graduate Student Association at Stanford University (2026 - present)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- B.A., University of California, Berkeley , Sociology (2024)

SERVICE, VOLUNTEER, AND COMMUNITY WORK

- UndocuScholars Femtor- by courtesy
- Bridge to Dream Project Mentorship Program (6/17/2026)

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Higher Education
- Immigrants and Immigration
- Race and Ethnicity
- Sociology

Professional

WORK EXPERIENCE

- UC Berkeley Sociology Graduate Division Department- Reader TA - University of California, Berkeley