

Ja'Nya Banks
nyamae@berkeley.edu

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Education Policy, Politics and Leadership

Berkeley Graduate School of Education
University of California, Berkeley

Expected
May 2027

Master's of Science of Education in Educational Policy

Penn Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

May, 2021

Relevant Coursework: Applied Research methods to Inform Policy and Practice, Introduction to Applied Quantitative Methods for Education Research, Education Finance Policy, Policy Implementation Theory & Practice, Applied Policy Analysis, American Education Reform: History Policy, Practice, Social Justice & Developmental Psychology: Applied Frameworks for Critical Research

Master's of Education in Special Education

Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

May, 2019

Relevant Coursework: Qualitative Methods of Education, Single Subject Research

Designs, Legal Policy Foundations of Education, Legal Aspects of Family Problems, Issues in English Language Learning

Bachelor of Science in Special Education

Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education
Minor of Public Leadership, School of Public Policy
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

May, 2018

Relevant Coursework: Advocacy in American Policy Systems, Innovation and Social Change, Leadership in Organizations, Family Partnerships in Special Education

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Mentored Award, Recipient

University of California, Berkeley

2023

Ford Foundation Fellowship , Honorable Mention

National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

2023

Ja'Nya Banks

nyamae@berkeley.edu

Berkeley School of Education Department Award, Recipient

2021-2022

University of California, Berkeley

PUBLICATIONS

Slovick, A., Fuller, B., Huang, C., Bryant, C., Banks, J., (In Press). California's push for universal pre-K: Uneven school capacity and racial disparities in access. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*.

Blonder, B. W., Banks, J., Cruz, A., Dornhaus, A., Godfrey, R. K., Hoskinson, J. S., Lipson, R., Sommers, P., Stewart, C., Strauss, A. Place Based Scientific Inquiry: A Practical Handbook for Teaching Outside. (2023). Routledge, New York.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, CA Recovery and Renewal

2022-
Present

University of California, Berkeley and PPIC

Mixed methods study with case study focus highlighting California school district use of emergency federal and state COVID funding to minimize learning opportunity gaps

Researcher, Understanding the Impact of Socio-Cultural Coursework for Future Educators of Color

2023-
Present

Principal Investigator: Dr. Travis Bristol

Leading a research project to understand the orientation that undergraduate students develop towards the field of teaching after engaging with marginalized communities in their coursework

Research Assistant, Spencer Vision Grant: Disproportionality

2023-
Present

Dr. Alfredo Artiles, Stanford University

District and research partnership addressing racial disproportionality for Black students in Special Education through system policy change

Research Fellow, Tri-County Early Childhood Education

2022

DIALEE, University of Washington

District and research partnership to develop toolkits to improve the early learning landscape of three school districts in the Central Valley

Research Assistant, California Transitional Kindergarten Expansion

2020-2021

University of California, Berkeley and DIALEE

Qualitative case study identifying the implementation goals and challenges of California school districts expanding transitional kindergarten programs

Ja'Nya Banks

nyamae@berkeley.edu

Education Leadership in COVID Crisis Study 2021

Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE)

Research assistant for nationwide qualitative research study using analyzing the impact of school leadership in managing an organization's response to the COVID-19 closures.

2019

Research Practicum: Disproportionality in Special Education, NYC Schools

Quantitative project for NYC School District analyzing racial disproportionality in Special Education placement

Master's Thesis: Teaching Sex Education to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Review of the Literature

Culminating Master's thesis reviewing curricular decisions addressing imperative needs for sex education for students with disabilities

ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Lead Instructor, EDUC190: Critical Studies of Education 2021-2023

University of California, Berkeley

- Plans and leads lessons on critical analysis of American education systems
- Facilitates fieldwork digital action projects for undergraduate students
- Completes grading and feedback for all students in the course

Research Assistant, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management Summer 2022

University of California, Berkeley

- Consulted with faculty, lecturers and course staff for undergraduate Biology and climate change courses to revise class structures with an equity lens
- Held workshops centered on critical pedagogy in higher education

Urban Teaching Apprenticeship Affinity Group Facilitator 2020-2021

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education

- Facilitate graduate students in the UTAP program in conversations around race and diversity as future educators of color

Philadelphia Public School Board Strategic Plan Project 2021

Under the guidance of Dr. Rand Quinn

- Conducted qualitative data collection and analysis to present the school board with recommendations for increased community engagement

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Racial and Economic Justice Intern, ACLU NorCal 2021

Ja'Nya Banks

nyamae@berkeley.edu

- Reviewed extensive data analysis and strategic compiled data set to support casework
- Lead presentations of relevant policy analysis regarding case focus

Education Analytics Intern, Contractor

2021

- Supported program management efforts for student data analysis deliverables for partnering school districts and universities
- Generated written reports based on data matrices for partners

Special Education Teacher, Case Manager, Adaptive PE Teacher

2018-2020

Montgomery County Public Schools

- Used methods of evidence-based research practices, restorative justice practices, and trauma informed teaching to support Special Education, English
- Committee member for School Community Involvement, supporting resource access for families

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium ALIVE Program, Teacher, Mentor

2019

- After school program focused on minimizing the academic and emotional gap for students of color through multi-modal educational activities

Special Education Intern,

Bethesda Elementary School, Bethesda Maryland: Inclusion classrooms

2017-2018

- Supported implementation of IEP plans, led intervention work

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Graduate School of Education Policy Committee Representative

University of California, Berkeley

2021-
Present

- Representative in meetings regarding the creation and implementation of department responsibilities and policies

Montgomery County Educators Association, Building Representative

2019-2020

- Representing needs and interests of school community for the MCEA

Women's Lee Middle School Mentorship Program, Founder, Mentor

- Provided mentorship in the realm of academic growth, social-emotional well health and executive functioning skills to students

2018-2020

Presidential Task Force on Diversity and Equity Co-chair,

University of Maryland, College Park

2018

- Worked with student affairs administrators, and college faculty to evaluate the university's efforts in creating a diverse and inclusive environment through forums, data collection, review of peer models,

Ja'Nya Banks

nyamae@berkeley.edu

and compiled relevant research to form a comprehensive plan that would establish the university's response to hate bias incidents and cultural training

International Partners, Student Volunteer

2016, 2017

El Salvador, Children: Risk, Poverty and Education

- Supported research efforts regarding access to education in rural El Salvador. Completed home visits for families with disabilities to share best practices and materials. Aided in the development of community education centers