

A circular portrait of Miriam Barillas, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. The background of the entire page is a yellow-tinted image of a building's facade with intricate architectural details.

Miriam Barillas, PsyD

First Generation Plus Success Center (FG+SC)

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a licensed psychologist with my master's and doctorate in Clinical Psychology and an emphasis in Multicultural Community-Clinical Psychology from Alliant International University. I completed a CAPIC-accredited pre-doctoral internship at the Pasadena City College Counseling Center and a post doctorate fellowship at Pacific Clinics. In addition, I am bilingual (Spanish). One of my interests include working with the Latinx community.

What interests you about working with FG+SC students?

I have a passion for working with historically marginalized student populations that stems from my own personal background as a daughter of immigrant parents from Guatemala.

My identity and experiences as a woman of color and as a minoritized individual provides me with a deep understanding of the barriers and struggles that students of color, first gen, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, and other minority students face in their efforts to thrive in a college.

Do you have a favorite quote that keeps you motivated?

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

– Maya Angelou

What do you do to de-stress?

To de-stress, I go on hikes, spend time with friends and family, watch and attend tennis events, try new taco places, and cuddle with my dogs.