

Teaching Statement

I discovered my passion for teaching early in my high school years. At that time, I was well known among my classmates for my ability to clearly explain complex ideas and my caring attitude.

In 2002, the second year of my Bachelor's Degree in Economics at University of Los Andes, I received an offer to become the teaching assistant for two courses entitled *Investments* and *Economic Policy in Colombia*. I also served as a teaching assistant for the *Experimental Economics* course and as a lecturer for *Introduction to the Colombian Economy* while attending the University of Los Andes. I was accepted into the PhD program in Economics at UCLA in 2008, and after completing my first year, I served as a teaching assistant in the areas of microeconomics and statistics. I strongly believe that microeconomics is a fascinating subject that helps us to understand the decision-making process and actions of economic agents.

I emphasize to undergraduate students that they should not learn and repeat formulas without understanding the underlying economic concepts. Nothing is more quickly forgotten than a formula that is not understood, while learning to understand abstract concepts is a valuable skill, regardless of your career. Since microeconomics is easily applied to real life, I always try to enrich my explanations with real-world illustrations and current events to engage students in the learning process and motivate their participation in class discussions.

Communication is critical to effective learning. I think it is essential to create a comfortable and lively atmosphere between the teacher and students to facilitate communication. In my discussion sessions, I actively request participation and call on students for input. Being accessible to them is also a high priority, and therefore, I hold extra office hours by request and promptly reply to student emails. I like students to feel comfortable seeking my help both in and outside class, and I believe I have done a good job so far in this respect. I'm always looking to make the students' time in meeting sessions worthwhile, and I'm also very careful in presenting the material in a clear, thorough and organized manner.

Teaching is a learning process. My experience as a teaching assistant at the University of California, Los Angeles has been very rewarding. I have enjoyed every minute sharing my passion for economics and feeling that I am making a significant difference along the way. Finally, I look forward to continuing helping students learn as a full time professor.

Teaching Evaluations

Carolina Mejía-Mantilla

UCLA

Course	Quarter	Mean (out of 9)	Median (out of 9)
Econ 1 Principles of Economics	Fall 2009	7.5	8
Econ 1 Principles of Economics	Winter 2010	7.5	7.5
Econ 1 Principles of Economics	Spring 2010	7.5	8
Econ 2 Principles of Economics	Fall 2010	8.2	8
Econ 41 Statistics for Economists	Winter 2011	7.64	7.5
Econ 41 Statistics for Economists	Spring 2011	7.2	7
Econ 1 Principles of Economics	Fall 2011	7.67	8
Econ 1 Principles of Economics	Winter 2012	7.53	8
Econ 1 Principles of Economics	Spring 2012	7.71	8

Selected Comments from Students

“By far, Carolina is one of the best TA I’ve had at UCLA in my two years here. I had her for Econ 1 and she was excellent there also. Very helpful, concise and to the point but also genial and pleasant.” (Winter 2010)

“She is a great TA in that if you don’t understand the material, she is willing and available to work with you even scheduling meeting outside office hours.” (Fall 2010)

“Carolina always prepared a useful review of the lecture material and was more than willing to help during office hours.” (Winter 2011)

“It was a very nice discussion section. Carolina was very helpful and clear with her explanations and reflected lecture material well.” (Winter 2011)

“She is an excellent TA. This discussion doesn’t count for credit but I came to class every time because I know my understanding would improve greatly. She really helped me learn the material.” (Spring 2011)

“Carolina was very knowledgeable on the subject on the subject and I found her explanations very useful and valuable. She really helped me understand a subject that I never learned before and found difficult. She was very confident even when the class was too shy to respond.” (Spring 2011)

“Fantastic TA. She helped to condense the lecture’s material and teach methodically. She also expanded on the ideas nicely too. She was accessible out of class and went off her way to give extra discussion sections.” (Fall 2011)

“Carolina was a great TA and made section worth going to. She was very helpful and explained things clearly.” (Spring 2012)

“She was very helpful in my understanding of Economics, without the discussion I would have not mastered the material nearly as well.” (Spring 2012)