

5 Actions Faculty and Advisors Can Take to Support Undocumented Students

UndocuSpartan Student Resource Center

1. Foster Safe, Trustworthy Advising Spaces

- Do not ask students to disclose their immigration status. Under [California law](#) and [FERPA](#), immigration status is protected information that should not be collected or recorded.
- However, if a student voluntarily shares their status, advisors should respond with care: listen without judgment, protect the student's confidentiality, and offer support by connecting them with trusted campus resources.
- Use inclusive, welcoming language ("*undocuscholar*," "*all students regardless of immigration status*") and avoid stigmatizing terms ("*illegal*," "*alien*").
- Make visible your support for undocumented students through posters, office signage, or resource referrals. You can download the [SJSU UndocuAlly Door Sign](#) created by SJSU's [Chicano/Latino Faculty & Staff Association](#) (CLFSA).

2. Engage with Flexibility and an Open Mind

- Understand that undocumented students may have non-linear academic and career pathways due to immigration status limits.
- Approach each student without assumptions about DACA, work eligibility, or financial means.
- When questions arise outside your expertise, collaborate with the student to find answers or appropriate referrals.
- Share what you learn with your broader campus community to strengthen support networks.

3. Equip Yourself to Guide Students Toward California Opportunities

- Understand basic access points such as AB 540 (in-state tuition) and the California Dream Act (state financial aid) — essential for advising undocumented students on college access and affordability.
- Let students know that service learning, internship hours, and professional licensing pathways are accessible to undocumented students under [California law](#).
- Attend ongoing trainings and best practice discussions to strengthen your advising strategies for undocumented students.

- Advocate for more departmental scholarships, paid academic opportunities, and flexible pathways that reduce barriers undocumented students often face.

4. Connect Students to Trusted Resources

- Refer students (with consent) to the UndocuSpartan Resource Center and/or other trusted campus allies.
- Whenever possible, do warm handoffs — personally introducing students to supportive staff, advisors, or community organizations to build trust.
- Promote community-based resources that serve undocumented students in areas like career development, mental health, and basic needs, etc.

5. Build Your Own Educator Network and Stay Engaged

- Actively build relationships with other educators committed to undocumented student support.
- Attend trainings, share best practices, and keep learning.
- Subscribe to newsletters for updates on immigration policy changes affecting students in California.
- Share best practices and resources with your department to create a more supportive advising culture across campus.

Explore the UndocuAlly Resource Hub!

A centralized directory of trusted external tools for supporting undocumented & mixed-status students.

- **Policy guides:** Official resources on AB 540, the California Dream Act, and state laws.
- **Advising frameworks:** Training materials and inclusive practices from advocacy partners.
- **Career tools:** Internship/licensure pathways and community-endorsed strategies.



Visit sjsu.edu/undocuspartan/undocually to stay informed on state policies and apply expert-vetted practices for supporting students.

