

# 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.

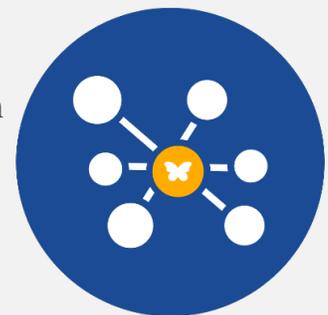
#### 5. Build Your Own Educator Network and Stay Engaged

- 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 collection of tools to strengthen campus support for undocumented and mixed-status students. Here you will find:

- **Policy Guidance:** Understand AB 540, the CA Dream Act, professional licensure, and more.
- **Proven Strategies:** Access training and communication strategies to foster inclusive support.
- **Career & Opportunity Access:** Explore ways to connect students with internships, professional pathways, and non-employment-based opportunities.



Visit [sjsu.edu/undocuspartan/undocually](https://sjsu.edu/undocuspartan/undocually) to stay informed and align your support with expert-vetted policies and practices.