

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Access, Support, and Community for Berkeley “Dreamers”

The Undocumented Student Program (USP) at Berkeley supports undocumented students with holistic services and resources that help undergraduates stay engaged and successful. Nearly 380 undocumented students at Berkeley, often called “Cal Dreamers,” are served by USP — a number that is growing annually. Following the lead of Berkeley’s program, every University of California campus now has an undocumented student program. USP also responds to requests from colleges and universities across the nation to share best practices, improving the circumstances for Dreamers nationally.

Programs and services through the Undocumented Student Program include:

- » Academic counseling and a lending library to offset the average \$650 per semester cost of course-required textbooks
- » The Robert D. Haas Dreamer Resource Center, which provides a welcoming space and resource center to access legal information, counseling, and social support
- » Legal support to help Dreamers and their families take the necessary steps to explore legal immigration options so they can take advantage of the full range of opportunities at Berkeley, including research, internships, and work opportunities
- » Scholarship opportunities for undocumented students, in partnership with the Financial Aid office
- » A full time psychologist to support student through their emotional and mental health needs
- » An emergency grant program to provide undocumented students with emergency financial relief for housing, medical, or other extenuating expenses
- » A comprehensive web portal, which extends the undocumented student community online
- » UCB Summer Bridge, which prepares entering freshmen from underresourced communities to succeed at Berkeley; philanthropy helps newly admitted Dreamers cover the program’s fees of \$2,559 for room, board, books, and transportation
- » Campuswide UndocuAlly training program for staff, created in partnership with Staff Diversity Initiatives. To date, over 150 staff members from dozens of campus departments have gone through this eight-hour training.

Berkeley is trailblazing a national model in higher education to create educational equity for 2.1 million Dreamers across the United States. The university has responded to requests from dozens of institutions across the country that have asked for leadership advice and best practices to replicate the Berkeley model. Berkeley is shifting the conversation — not only about how to get Dreamers to college, but also how to provide holistic resources to get Dreamers through college.

To date the university’s work with undocumented students has received major gifts from Elise Haas — in honor of her father, Robert D. Haas; The Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; Tom Hansen and Ira Hirschfield; Jeff Hawkins; the Heising-Simons Foundation; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; the Liberty Hill Foundation; and two anonymous donors.