

Top 10 Ways College Counselors Can Help Undocumented Students

by Katharine Gin

1. Make information and resources about undocumented students easily available to all students. Don't ask students to self-identify. Many students will be too scared to reveal their immigration status. Some students might not even know about their status.
2. Be open-minded. Don't make assumptions about which students may or may not be undocumented. Undocumented students aren't all Latino, Spanish-speaking, or enrolled in ESL classes.
3. Be knowledgeable about specific government and college admission policies that affect undocumented students.
4. Support the federal DREAM Act and other state-based legislation to support undocumented students.
5. Identify private scholarships that don't require citizenship/residency.
6. Encourage private scholarships to allow undocumented students to apply.
7. Identify private sponsors who can provide financial support to undocumented students.
8. Help undocumented students create lasting support networks that can offer ongoing mentoring and advice, even after the college admission process.
9. Identify older undocumented students to serve as role models.
10. Refer students to qualified legal counsel to investigate possible immigration remedies.



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American, Katharine was born and raised in San Francisco, and later received her undergraduate degree from Yale University (CT). For more than 15 years, she has worked to improve arts and education opportunities for low-income youth.

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