

The Undocumented Ally Agreement

One of the most important aspects of being an ally for undocumented students is that you are entrusted with providing them an atmosphere of safety and support. In the simplest of terms, to be an ally means to protect the confidentiality of a student's personal conversation or interaction with you. Undocumented students face multiple barriers such as: limited access to student support, insensitivity, disrespect, and demeaning attitudes which hamper their learning. These students are very aware of subtle exclusory language and often assume that they are ineligible for services or accommodations if not explicitly included. Staff, faculty and peer's lack of familiarity with undocumented students' issues is often an additional barrier for undocumented students at a University. Therefore, to foster a welcoming environment for all students at Loyola, it is imperative that undocumented students have safe spaces to seek support and understanding. By displaying an Ally sign you are committing to create a safe place for undocumented students to share issues, challenges, needs, and goals. While an "Ally Sign" may seem insignificant, its impact is profound, and should not be undertaken without thought and intention. You must honestly agree without reservation to the following terms in order to become an Ally.¹

Please initial each term of the contract and sign below. ²

_____ As an Ally, I acknowledge that DREAMers and other undocumented students have a right to be enrolled in the University.

_____ As an Ally, I will respect an individual's right to privacy, as stipulated in Federal Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).

_____ As an Ally, I will create a climate of trust that allows the student to reveal their situation at their own pace, and I will handle student's emotions with reserve, empathy, support, and refer to appropriate professional campus staff as needed.

_____ As an Ally, I will listen openly, but will not interrogate the student about their immigration status.

_____ As an Ally, I will not publically share a student's status without their permission.

_____ As an Ally, I will become informed about the rights afforded to individuals through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the Illinois DREAM Act, and general rights of individuals regardless of status.

_____ As an Ally, I believe that children and youth ought not to be targets of anti-immigrant discrimination; i.e., DREAMers should be left out of the immigration "wars."

_____ As an Ally, I will recognize that I am not someone with ready-made answers, necessarily a counselor, nor am I necessarily trained to deal with crisis situations or expected to proceed with an interaction if levels of comfort or personal safety have been violated.

_____ As an Ally, I know that because of negative attitudes toward immigration and the lack of legal rights afforded children and youth who are undocumented, that a person who has legal status has more power in initiating institutional support and can advocate against prejudice and discrimination.

_____ As an Ally, I will remove my sign, if for any reason I begin to question my ability to be an Ally or my ability to provide a safe space.

I, _____, agree to all of the terms of this Ally Agreement. By signing this contract, I
(Print name)

commit to providing a safe space. I take on this responsibility with careful thought & intention.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



¹ Adapted from LUC LGBTQ Ally Agreement

² Adapted from AB540 Ally Handbook, California State University, Long Beach (2009)