



Beyond AB540: Enhancing the Undocumented Grad Student Experience in the University

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If you'd like to take the AB540 Center's UPE training, you can find it here:



Background

Undocumented Graduate Student issues are anything but "basic"

- Complex Funding Streams
 - We get paid to go to school
 - vs undergrads, who pay to go to school
 - consequently, **eligibility for employment is a central factor**
- Increased workload (in comparison to undergraduates) and higher expectations lead to higher levels of stress
- We often stand in isolation
 - Far FEWER in number, and widespread through the campus
- According to the AB540 Center, the undocumented graduate student population **grew between 20 to 25 times from 2016 to 2020**
- This makes community-building difficult
- Support for undocu-grads did not grow in proportion

CENTRAL QUESTIONS

Is the University of California, Davis prepared to handle the growing needs of the undocumented graduate student community?

How effective has the center been in preparing the campus population for addressing undocumented issues?

UNDOCU-ADVOCATE PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS (UPE)

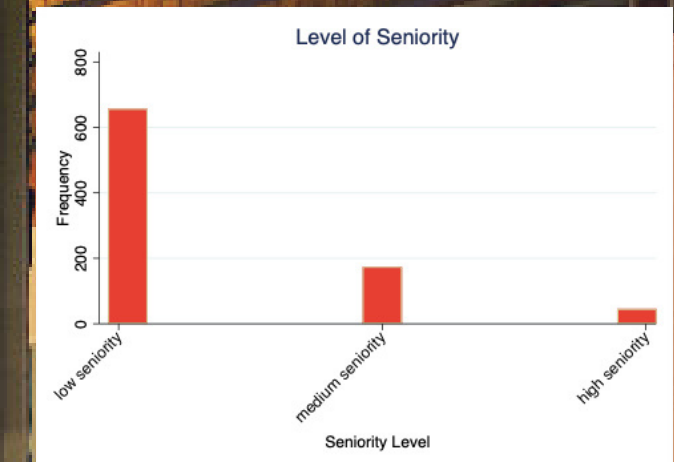
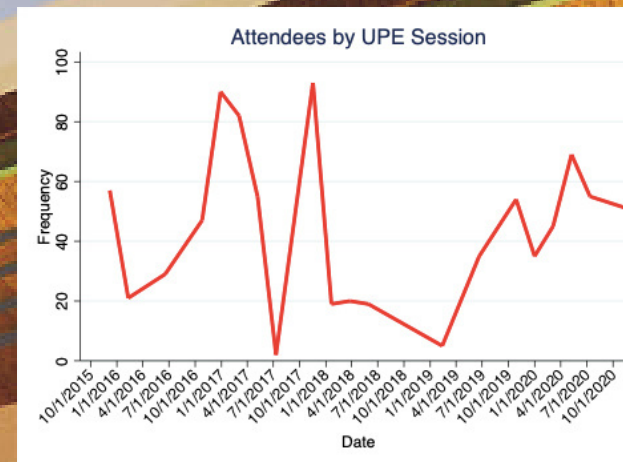
Campus-wide training provided by the UC Davis AB540 Center intended to provide education and allyship training for UC Davis affiliates; focuses on laws, policies, mental health, support, and access to give participants insight into the undocumented student experience.

UC DAVIS POPULATION

Student Population (as of 2018): 39,152
Academic and Administrative Staff Population (as of 2015): 39,152

Total number of UPE Participants between 2015 and 2020:

883



PROGRAM ANALYSIS

- The AB540 Center has 2.5 paid staff (2 full-time employees, 1 half-time GSR)
 - What does it mean when the responsibility for educating an entire campus falls on the shoulders of three people?
 - Results are telling -- **less than 2% of the campus has taken the UPE training**, and that is not accounting for the unknown number of individuals who have come and left UC Davis
- The UPE program focuses primarily on basic needs issues -- food security, emergency grants, and mental health. The Center's programming reflects this approach, with the inclusion of leadership awards and scholarships
 - While these can also apply to graduate students, **issues of employment, navigating fellowships and medium-to-large financial awards and other issues are missing from the curriculum** (particularly when it comes to Summer funding)
- The undocumented graduate student population has risen an unprecedented amount during the Trump administration, but support from the University falls short, particularly when we recognize the incredible expense of a graduate student education.
- **Cyclical pattern of campus interest** in participating in the Center's training program, **potentially linked to media attention** to undocumented issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the following folks who made this project possible:

- **Karla Rodriguez Beltran**, who worked with me in securing the data for this project and helped guide my decision-making process.
- **Ignacio Alarcon**, who mentored me and encouraged me to work with the AB540 Center for this project.
- **Laura M. Bohórquez García**, whose leads the Center and makes sure that folks like me continue to do the work that I do.

The coordinators and educators of the PFTF Program:

- **Dr. Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, Dr. Teresa Dillinger, Olga G. Garzon-Lopez, Dr. Patricia Turner, Dr. David Blanca**
- And my PFTF Cohort members, ranging from 5'2" to 6'3", yet all equally brilliant and whom I hope to one day meet in person.

