

Resolution in Support of Students Affected by Trump Administration Revocation of Visas

Whereas, In April 2025, the US state department revoked over 6,000 student visas, affecting at least three students in The San Mateo Community College District;

Whereas, The federal government, despite temporarily restoring visas for affected students, has developed new standards for revoking status significantly lowering the burden of proof from “substantial evidence” of wrongdoing to vaguely defined grounds such as “hostile attitudes” towards the US¹ or unsubstantiated accusations of terrorism² that violate existing visa revocation and administrative procedure laws as well as free speech and due process protections, leading to legal challenges across the country³

Whereas, Deportations cause irreparable harm to students, impede the functioning of our colleges, damage community faith in our institutions, and erode our fundamental freedoms; and

Whereas, The San Mateo Community College District and its Board of Trustees are committed to “ensuring every student within the District views its three colleges as ‘safe havens’ so that they may learn, live and thrive without fear of discrimination, profiling, targeting or unlawful prosecution”; and the San Mateo Federation of Teachers AFT 1493, representing SMCCCD faculty, released the HANDS OFF our Students! statement on March 18, 2025, encouraging the district to “pledge to protect its students, faculty, and staff from ICE, DHS, and other immigration enforcement agencies.”

Resolved, The Academic Senate of College of San Mateo urges the San Mateo Community College District to:

1. Seek action in the federal courts to halt the termination of students’ legal status without due process or prior communication with their Districts.
2. Guarantee legal support from each campus for students whose visas are revoked, including pursuing all legal options that allow students to remain in the country and continue their studies.
3. Ensure that any student whose visa and/or legal status is revoked and who is either detained or deported can remain enrolled in their SMCCCD and FHDA courses at their campus and continue their program of study remotely until its completion.

¹ <https://www.hunton.com/insights/legal/federal-government-announces-new-policy-on-status-records-for-international-students>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/13/tufts-student-rumeysa-ozturk-rubio-trump/>

³ <https://www.themodilawfirm.com/blog/2025/april/revoked-without-warning-the-student-visa-crisis-/>

4. Work with the Academic Senate of the Districts and campuses to ensure academic and other institutional support for students whose immigration status is impacted or may be jeopardized.
5. Continue to dispense fellowship, stipend, grant, and scholarship funds to any student who is detained and/or deported, and ensure that this funding continues until the completion of their relevant course of study.
6. Maintain sufficient transparency with our campuses regarding the number, current status, whereabouts, and specific visa termination violations for all affected students, specifically those revocations associated with academic freedom and first amendment rights to free speech.