

- Have you or a family member ever been incarcerated?
- Have you been directly impacted by mass incarceration?

If so, you are an
Underground Scholar!

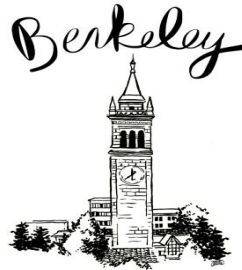


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Underground Scholars Initiative (USI)

*Underground Scholars Initiative (USI) at the
University of California, Berkeley*



Creating a Prison-to-School Pipeline



About the Underground Scholars Initiative

The Underground Scholars Initiative (USI) is a student-run organization at UC Berkeley.

We aim to break the stigma surrounding individuals whom experience confinement by not only educating citizens at-large, but by creating a *Prison-To-School Pipeline*. Our goal is to increase the population of formerly incarcerated people in higher education.

We provide accessible higher education resources to anyone negatively impacted by mass incarceration, encouraging successful reintegration and reducing recidivism.

“We interrupt the dominant narratives of formerly incarcerated people, and their roles in academia.”



For Community College Students

USI Transfer Program

The Underground Scholars Initiative works in conjunction with local community colleges and their formerly incarcerated student population to streamline transfer to a four-year university. We provide:

- ✓ UC Personal Statement Development
- ✓ Transcript analysis
- ✓ Application Assistance

Concurrent Enrollment Program

This program engages students, who have been negatively impacted by incarceration, in courses at UC Berkeley. Upon completion, students get the opportunity to experience university level rigor, receive college credit, committing participants to their future goals in academia. Includes:

- ✓ Academic planning
- ✓ Peer mentoring
- ✓ Tutoring

For Students @ Cal

We provide a welcoming space for students who have been impacted by mass incarceration. Students are able to come together and share their experiences, while supporting each other without the fear of judgment.

We offer co-curricular support and connect members to professional development resources. Available services include:

- Class workload management strategies
- Effective study skills at the research university level workshops
- Academic reading support
- Scholarship application assistance
- Graduate proposal support

We create a student voice on campus, to help influence local, state, and national public policy, advocating higher education as an alternative to incarceration and shifting the dogma on the positive effects of implementing a school-to-prison pipeline nationwide.

We ensure participants have the opportunity to take advantage of all services available to Cal students. Allowing equal access to a liberal education of the highest quality regardless of prior conviction history.