

## **Myanmar Solidarity Statement**

International Student Programs and Office of Equity Stand in Solidarity with Myanmar Students and their Families.

The Office of Equity and Office of International Student Programs (ISP) denounce the undemocratic violent coup by the Myanmar military. We are disheartened to know that our De Anza College students have been living in continued crisis for the past two months and extend our solidarity to them as they attempt to navigate virtual learning in a pandemic while in fear of their lives due to state violence.

Myanmar or Burma, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is a country in Southeast Asia. On February 1st, the Myanmar Military seized power and declared the country under national emergency. This has meant that the students and their families live under curfew, with limited internet access and usage. Meanwhile, financial institutions and assets have been frozen with families losing access to bank accounts. Another layer of impact has been the suppression of ongoing daily protests and lack of independent media coverage.

International Students have had challenges during this pandemic. For example, many have returned to their home countries and are continuing their studies from there. That means accessing De Anza classes, office hours, and support services at odd hours to account for time differences. The pandemic has made it difficult for international students to have an ideal “college life” experience. Now, the Myanmar military occupation has made it extremely difficult.

**We are committed to providing continued support and resources to our students.** Two months later, the dedicated staff at ISP is devoted to maintaining a user-friendly environment for the students as they are living in distress. Along with Enrollment Services and Student Services, ISP will continue to collaborate and be on standby to support the academic needs and to ensure the healthy wellbeing of our Myanmar based students.

### **Call to Action:**

We encourage faculty and staff to be in solidarity with our students in these times. The smallest empathetic actions drawn from compassion and an ethic of care can have a lasting impact and can include:

- Flexibility with assignment deadlines or alternate assignments
- Varied office hours to accommodate overseas students
- Collaboration and communication with the ISP team and enrollment services

The ISP office’s mission is to nurture a lifelong global perspective; we acknowledge our privileges here in the U.S. while our students in Myanmar are surviving in their country fighting for genuine democratic governance. **Together we can stand by our students, their safety, wellbeing and their human rights.**

### **[International Student Programs \(deanza.edu\)](https://deanza.edu)**

The International Student Programs (ISP) office oversees all aspects of international student programs, services and exchanges at De Anza College. Its mission is to nurture a lifelong global perspective on campus and provide a user-friendly environment to international students to ensure a rewarding educational and personal experience at this college. ISP plays a key role in increasing De Anza's visibility around the world and serves as a resource to the campus community on information and resources concerning international education and activities.

### [Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education \(deanza.edu\)](http://deanza.edu)

The Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education promotes — through programs and services — an academic, cultural and social environment that provides equity, social justice and academic success for all members of the De Anza College campus community. It supports the district and college missions, which consider diversity an essential component of student education in the 21st century. The Equity Office takes this charge seriously. We have expanded our mission of fostering a climate of healthy diversity that values individual and group differences and respects the perspectives of others by working to eliminate institutional oppression or barriers that perpetuate inequity, injustice, and mono-cultural education.

#### *Recent news on the developing situation in Myanmar:*

- [Myanmar special envoy: It is time for the world to stop another genocide - CNN Video](#)
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/07/myanmar-coup-ousted-mps-accuse-military-of-human-rights-abuses>
- <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-security-forces-attack-town-resisted-arms-76918331>