The Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) and Dean of Students (DOS) at the University of California, Merced is a unit under the Division of Student Affairs. The Office collaboratively promotes student development and advocates for student success through intentional programs and initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and policy development and implementation. Students are central to all our efforts. The Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students is a central space for students, parents, staff, and faculty to receive assistance with navigating the complexities of student life. The Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students supports the University’s mission and values while placing students first in all endeavors.

CASE ASSESSMENT
Centralizes incoming communication about students of concern to gain a more complete understanding of student circumstances.

ADVOCACY
Serves as an advocate to students and their support networks on issues of personal, academic, or community crisis, paired with support services and manages critical incidents and challenges impacting students and their campus community.

REFERRALS & ACTION PLANNING
Develops individualized outreach and support plans to address identified concerns and promotes student wellness and success with all campus stakeholders.

EMPOWERMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
Ensures progress on action planning over time and offers wide-ranging support to all students in times of challenge/crisis or when faced with academic or socio-emotional concerns.

KEY SERVICES PROVIDED
The Dean of Students Office is committed to providing students with access to resources and tools needed to accomplish their academic, personal, and career goals.

- Academic Accommodations (Academic Resources and options)
- Educational Leave Program (Incomplete grade options, class-related accommodations)
- Emergency Funding and Basic Needs Support
- Emergency Housing
- Support and Workshops for Faculty, Staff, and Students
- Programs and initiatives focused on understanding students' experience

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS OF CONCERN
The Student of Concern Process allows students, staff, and faculty to refer a student to appropriate support and to monitor concerning behavior exhibited by a student. If you know a student is experiencing challenges or difficulties that concern you, please refer the student to appropriate resources. ASCD reports the concern using the Student of Concern Form.

As the University of Merced community, it is our goal to intervene before a student reaches crisis level. The process below offers supportive intervention and guidance to any ASCD referred student in distress or if you believe that a student is experiencing challenges or difficulties that concern you, please do the following:

1. Support a Student in Distress
   - When referring a student, you are not expected to provide personal counseling, rather you pay an important role in referring students to have a campus conversation, including a meeting with students, faculty, and staff.

2. Apply Here

   - Please refer a student to appropriate resources. Facilitating a Student of Concern Report is an expected task.

3. What Happens After
   - Once a Student of Concern is filed, it is sent to the Dean of Students Office Staff. The DOS staff may contact the individual who filed the report to discuss the concern. More importantly, the DOS staff will contact the student of concern to assess any additional resources the student may need and collaboratively develop an action plan.

   - Students receive a confidential meeting with DOS staff to talk about student’s experience and the development of a response plan. The student’s response plan may include referrals and monitoring of student progress.

   - In the case of an emergency, please contact 911.

   - If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Dean of Students Office at 209-220-8536 or dso@ucmerced.edu.