

Advising Undocumented Students

Understanding the Options for Students and Families

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AGENDA

- What does it mean to be an undocumented student?
- Financial Aid
- Counseling undocumented students
- Scenarios
- Q & A's

THE SEARCH FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Like most prospective college students, undocumented individuals embark on a search for financial aid
- Unlike most prospective college students, undocumented individuals face substantial barriers in accessing financial aid

What does it mean to be an undocumented student?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE UNDOCUMENTED?

- A person lacks the documents required for immigration or legal residence in the U.S.
- A person may have entered the U.S.:
 - Legally on a temporary basis and stayed after documents expired
 - Without inspection or valid documents
 - As a minor and brought by someone else

CURRENT ESTIMATES

- Approximately 75% are from Mexico and Latin America
- The majority live in six states: California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Florida and Arizona
- Other states have seen significant growth in undocumented residents in the past 10-15 years

CURRENT ESTIMATES: UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

1.7 Million	Under age 30
1 Million	Under age 18
80,000	Reach age 18 annually
65,000	Graduate from high school annually

- Nationally, 40 percent of undocumented young people ages 18-24 do not complete high school, compared with 8 percent of their U.S.-born peers

Source: Center for American Progress, December 2014

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FINANCIAL AID

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

- Can undocumented students complete the FAFSA?
- If so, are undocumented students eligible for federal student aid?
- How does the FAFSA process differ for students with undocumented parents?
- Can an undocumented student pursue other sources of financial aid?

FAFSA ELIGIBILITY: CITIZENSHIP STATUS

The following types of applicants are **ELIGIBLE** for federal student aid:

- U.S. Citizens
- U.S. Nationals
- Permanent Residents of the U.S.
- Specific categories of Noncitizens

More: [StudentAid.gov/eligibility/non-us-citizens](https://studentaid.gov/eligibility/non-us-citizens)

FAFSA NON-ELIGIBLE

The following types of applicants are **INELIGIBLE** for federal student aid:

- **Visitors** (B1 and B2 visitor visas)
- **International students** (F1 and F2 student visas)
- **Temporary workers**
- **Undocumented residents**

Full visa listing: travel.state.gov/visa

ELIGIBILITY CHART



October 20, 2015

ELIGIBILITY CHART: FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES BY CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS

Types of Financial Assistance		U.S. Citizen or U.S. National	Lawful Permanent Resident	Other Noncitizens ¹ <i>(Check with your college or career school financial aid office for more information.)</i>	DACA recipient (granted by USCIS)	Undocumented (has no documentation)
Title IV, Federal Student Aid ²	Grants	Yes	Yes	Yes, if: ³	No	No
	Loans	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are in T nonimmigrant status ("T visa") or your parent is in T-1 nonimmigrant status. 	No	No
	Work Study	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are recognized as a "battered immigrant-qualified alien" who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse, or your parent is designated as such. Your Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) from DHS shows "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)," "Conditional Entrant,"⁴ or "Parolee."⁵ 	No	No
State Aid (grants/loans)		Varies by State				
Institutional Aid		Varies by institution				
Private Scholarships		Varies, depending on eligibility requirements				
Private Loans		Yes	Varies. A U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident may be needed as a cosigner.			

¹ Citizens of the Republic of Palau are eligible for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Work-Study. Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are eligible for Federal Pell Grants only. Certain Native American students born in Canada with a status under the Jay Treaty of 1789 may also be eligible for Federal student aid.

² Note: This includes programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA), such as the Federal TRIO programs.

³ To qualify for Federal student aid, other eligible noncitizens must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that they are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

⁴ Valid only if issued before April 1, 1980.

⁵ You must be paroled for at least one year, and you must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

KEY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Can undocumented students complete the FAFSA?
 - *Yes, if the student has a valid social security number. DACA students can file the FAFSA. More importantly, students should talk with their college or university financial aid official to ask whether state or institutional aid is awarded based on FAFSA information.*
- Are undocumented students eligible for federal aid?
 - *No, undocumented students are ineligible for federal student aid.*

KEY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Can an undocumented student pursue other sources of financial aid?
 - *Absolutely! There may be other types of non-federal financial aid for which they may qualify.*
 - *It is up to each school to decide what forms or information they prefer from students to determine institutional aid. Some Texas colleges and universities, for example, prefer the paper FAFSA along with the paper TASFA to determine institutional aid for undocumented students.*

STATE FINANCIAL AID

Currently 5 States Provide Financial Aid for Undocumented Students

- California
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- Texas
- Washington

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2015

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview>

OTHER STATE BENEFITS

18 States Currently Allow In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students

- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2015

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview>

STATE CRITERIA FOR IN-STATE TUITION

May vary by state:

- Attend a high school for two to four years within the state
- Complete a high school diploma or GED
- Enroll in a public postsecondary educational institution
- File affidavit stating intent to legalize status and become permanent resident

INSTITUTIONAL AID

- Institutional scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study programs
- Availability of institutional aid varies widely
- Scholarship funds come with a merit component

OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID

- FastWeb
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Get Ready for College
- Latino College Dollars
- Scholarships for Hispanics
- Genesco Migrant Center

COUNSELING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

COUNSELING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- Reach out as early as possible to all students and parents and encourage them to envision themselves as college material, explore career options and prepare academically for college. If the opportunity arises, let students know that undocumented status is not a legal bar to attending a U.S. college.
- Explain the requirements for federal financial aid at parent meetings or other group sessions: recipients must be U.S. citizens or legal residents. You can explain financial aid policies and options to parents and students without asking about their immigration status.

COUNSELING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- Monitor achievement and progress in the classroom
- Identify individual learning concerns and find solutions
- Appraise aptitude, intelligence, and other characteristics; interpret findings
- Provide information about high school study options and course offerings
- Aid students in exploring and understanding educational options
- Teach study skills and motivate students
- Encourage students to maintain an academic portfolio
- Foster extracurricular involvement
- Give students support and guidance

COUNSELING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- Provide Information and Resources in the Parents' Native Language
- Provide Hope & Encouragement
- Create a Safe Space
- Know Relevant Policies & Legislation
- Find Resources (Iowa College Student Aid, Educate Texas, Advise TX)
- Build Support Networks
- Identify Role Models
- Involve Parents
- Access Reputable Legal Information & Assistance

FACT SHEET FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Questions and Answers

Financial Aid and Undocumented Students

The questions and answers that follow provide information about student financial aid for undocumented students (sometimes referred to as "Dreamers") as well as guidance for a specific subgroup of undocumented students who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We have grouped the questions and answers into three categories: General Information, Eligibility for Financial Aid, and Completing the FAFSA.

A. General Information

1. Who are undocumented students?

Undocumented students are students who are not U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or "eligible noncitizens."

Undocumented students are sometimes referred to as "Dreamers." This term generally refers to undocumented youths who have lived in the United States from a very young age. The term "Dreamers" is derived from the legislation introduced in Congress and known as the "DREAM Act." You can read more about the proposed "DREAM Act" at www.ed.gov/news/speeches/dream-act-testimony.

Within the larger group of undocumented students, there is a subgroup of students who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

2. What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?

DACA is the name used of a process announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012. Under this process, if you came to the United States as a child and meet several key guidelines, you may contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a component of the Department of Homeland Security, to request consideration of deferred action. "Deferred action" refers to a decision to defer (delay or put off) removal action of an individual. DACA may be granted by USCIS for a period of two years and may be renewed under certain circumstances. Deferred action does not provide an individual with lawful status; however, recipients of deferred action may obtain work authorization.

General information about DACA: www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals

Answers to a series of frequently asked questions related to DACA, filing requirements, evidence, decisions, and renewals: www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions

3. Who is a DACA student?

A DACA student has received deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals process. Most DACA students are also granted work authorization; and if a student has work authorization, the student may be eligible to obtain a Social Security number. (More information about obtaining a Social Security number is in Question C.1.)

Thus, if a DACA student is granted deferred action and employment authorization, the student may be eligible for a Social Security number. For more information about obtaining a Social Security number, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deferred_action.pdf.

B. Eligibility for Financial Aid

1. As an undocumented student or DACA student, am I eligible for federal student aid?

No. Undocumented students, including DACA students and Dreamers, are not eligible for federal student aid. However, you may be eligible for state or college financial aid. Most states and colleges use information collected on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSASM) to determine whether you are eligible for aid. If you have a Social Security number, you may complete the FAFSA, and we encourage you to do so at www.fafsa.gov. However, we first recommend that you check with your high school counselor or your college or career school financial aid office to see what types of financial aid you may be eligible to receive and whether completing the FAFSA is the way to apply for that aid.

Financial Aid Toolkit: FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

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SCENARIOS

SCENARIO #1

Question: I am DACAmented. Should I file a FAFSA?

SCENARIO #1 RESPONSE

Answer: Yes, Federal Student Aid advises all students with a valid social security number to submit a FAFSA. It is up to each individual school to determine the best way to assist students in finding aid to pay for college. DACA students and undocumented students do not qualify to receive federal student aid. The FAFSA may be used to determine if the student qualifies for school or state aid, depending on the school the student is attending.

On the FAFSA question that reads, “Are you a U.S. citizen?”

DACA students must answer that question by selecting the option “No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen.”

SCENARIO #2

Question: In order for me to complete the FAFSA, do my parents need Social Security numbers?

SCENARIO #2 RESPONSE

Answer: No; since your parents' citizenship does not affect your ability to complete the FAFSA, they do not need Social Security numbers. If your parents do not have Social Security numbers, you must enter 000-00-0000 when the FAFSA asks for parents' Social Security numbers.

If your parents do not have Social Security numbers, you must print out the signature page from the online FAFSA so that your parents can sign it and send it in.

If they filed a tax return with their ITIN, they should not enter the ITIN in the FAFSA and choose "Filed a Foreign Tax Return" for tax form filed.

RESOURCES

- Information for students and families
www.StudentAid.gov
- Information for school counselors, mentors, college access professionals, etc.
www.FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov
- Educational resources for new arrivals & DACA students
www.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/immigration-resources.html
- Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Students
www.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf
- Free publications
www.fsapubs.gov

Questions?