

Undocumented Students and Higher Education

Keeping the Dream Alive!

Under Current Law...



Undocumented students are guaranteed a free k-12 public education under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment pursuant to the 1982 U.S Supreme Court decision, Plyer v. Doe.

Federal Law does **Not** prohibit admission of undocumented students to public universities and colleges.



Dreamers and Education in the U.S

- Are undocumented students allowed to attend college?
- Am I required provide a Social Security Number (SSN)?
- What happens when/if the school finds out about my status?
- Would you recommend students to share their status?

Social Security Number



- While many applications ask for a Social Security Number (SSN), there is no legal obligation on the part of the university to require students to prove it.
- What should I do then?
 - Leave this section blank.
 - Common Application has special direction for DACA recipients.
 - Do NOT provide a false SSN or ITIN:
 - States and/or federal laws make it a crime in some circumstances to use a false SSN - which may qualify as identity theft.

Will my school report me to DHS?

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does NOT require a college to determine a student's immigration status or to report it if it comes to light.*

*Exception: in the case of a person who came on an international student visa, the school is required to report the termination of a student's academic status, which may possible impact her/his nonimmigrant status.



Tips for College

- Give yourself time
- KNOW YOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE!
- Research fee waivers for the application!
- Stay put for the letter of acceptance or rejection. If you don't hear back, contact the university, you may have some missing documents!
- Acceptance letters have deadlines, you might need to confirm attendance!
- DREAM big, aim HIGH!

Preparing for college – Students and Parents

Parents and Students should work together to:

- Make a list of possible schools to attend
- Create a financial plan
- Become familiar with college support programs
- Make appointments with programs/admissions department
- Look for scholarships

Parents should know:

- Students can finish college, however, it may take longer to graduate
- Do not be afraid to ask or encourage your child to ask high school counselors/college advisors questions
- There are many undocumented students who have succeeded

Counselors cannot report you

Preparing for college: Understanding 2-Years vs. 4-Year Institutions

Community College 2-Year Institution

City Colleges

- *In-District Tuition can range from an estimated \$64 - \$100 per credit hour*
- *Out-of-District Tuition can range from an estimated \$190 - \$275 per credit hour*

Annual Tuition for a Full-Time student:
\$1,920 - \$3,000 In-District
\$5,700 - \$8,250 Out-of-District

Private 2-Year Colleges

Tuition can range from an estimated \$250 - \$350 per credit hour

Annual Tuition for a Full-Time student:
\$7,500 - \$10,500

College/University 4-Year Institution

Public University

- *In-State Tuition can range from \$7,362 to \$12,240 per year*
- *Out-of-State can range from \$15,000 to \$27,000 per year*

These figures are based on full-time enrollment

Private University

- *Tuition can range from \$16,000 to \$38,000 per year*

These figures are based on full-time enrollment

Affording/Paying for College



- Do undocumented students qualify for federal financial aid?
- Do undocumented students qualify for in-state tuition in NJ?
- What about private scholarships?
- State financial aid?



FAFSA

- Undocumented students *do not qualify* for federal financial aid.
 - This includes FAFSA
- Federal law does NOT prohibit states from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants.
- Some institutions may require DACA students to complete the FAFSA to qualify for institutional aid.
- As of January 2014, undocumented students in New Jersey are eligible to qualify for in-state tuition due to the passage of the New Jersey Dream Act.

What is the New Jersey Dream Act?

- Attended a NJ high school for 3 or more years.
- Graduated from a NJ high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in NJ.
- File an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize her/his immigration status, or will file an application as soon as she/he is eligible to do so.

- YET, even with the NJ Dream Act, undocumented students are not eligible to qualify for state financial aid (ie: EOF, TAG, NJSTARS)
- So, now what?
 - Certain colleges & universities may offer both merit-based scholarships and other scholarships to undocumented students.
 - There are some scholarships that do not require a social security number.

Okay. I am a DACAmented student in school... what can I do?

- Can I legally work?
- Can I study abroad?



This is when DACA comes into play.

- DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- Under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), undocumented students can apply for and obtain employment authorization.
 - You can legally work under DACA.

- DACAmented students can travel outside of the US for study abroad programs given the following:
 - Application for advance parole is granted.
 - USCIS stated it will grant parole for “humanitarian, education, or work purpose.”
 - In its January 2013 updated guidance, USCIS explicitly stated that educational purposes include semester abroad programs and academic research.

DACAmented and Careers

Can undocumented immigrants with DACA apply for government positions (federal and state)?

Depends on requirements

NEVER claim to be a US citizen specially in the i-9 form which actually goes back to USCIS

Work study- cannot enroll in a work study but you can certainly get a job with DACA at your school

Additional DACA Resources

The USCIS website:

www.uscis.gov

Own the Dream Campaign and DACA resources:

www.weownthedream.org

Download Pocket DACA on your mobile phone



National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
(NALEO) hotline: Call 855-DREAM-31

Financial Aid Resources

TheDream.US: www.thedream.us (RU-N & ECC)

Educators for Fair Consideration: www.e4fc.org

United We Dream: <http://unitedwedream.org/>

My Undocumented Life: <http://mydocumentedlife.org/>

Latinas United for Political Empowerment (LUPE):
<http://www.lupenj.org/programs/>