Undocumented and DACAmented Student Success and Career Development Guide

Vera Rodriguez Mancera (Perekoteyeva)

Office of Career Services

Northeastern Illinois University and University of Illinois at Chicago
I. General Information

Who are college undocumented students?
- Most of these students were brought to America by their parents at a very young age. They've learned English, completed their schooling and integrated themselves into communities — they regard themselves as Americans. According to the CollegeBoard.org report, Young Lives on Hold, about 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools every year. When they aspire to go to college along with their peers, their undocumented status becomes a major hindrance. The report also states that only 5 to 10 percent of undocumented students go on to college after graduating high school. http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/

Who are DREAMers?
- The “deferred action” initiative for unauthorized youth who were brought to this country as children offers a two-year, renewable reprieve from deportation to unauthorized immigrants who are under the age of 31; entered the United States before age 16; have lived continuously in the country for at least five years; have not been convicted of a felony, a “significant” misdemeanor, or three other misdemeanors; and are currently in school, graduated from high school, earned a GED, or served in the military. Immigrants who meet these criteria are commonly referred to as “DREAMers” because they comprise most (though not all) of the individuals who meet the general requirements of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. The majorities of Dreamers are 15 or older and are therefore eligible to apply for deferred action right now. However, there are also large numbers who are 14 or younger and are not yet eligible to apply, but who will be eligible at some point in the future if the deferred action initiative remains in place. http://immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/who-and-where-dreamers-are

Who are DACA?
- Individuals who demonstrate that they meet the guidelines below may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) for a period of two years, subject to renewal for a period of two years, and may be eligible for employment authorization. http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions

You may request consideration of DACA if you:
1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
5. Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012, meaning that:
   - You never had a lawful immigration status on or before June 15, 2012,
Any lawful immigration status or parole that you obtained prior to June 15, 2012, had expired as of June 15, 2012;

1. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
2. Have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

What is deferred action?
- Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer a removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion. For purposes of future inadmissibility based upon unlawful presence, an individual whose case has been deferred is not considered to be unlawfully present during the period in which deferred action is in effect. An individual who has received deferred action is authorized by DHS to be present in the United States, and is therefore considered by DHS to be lawfully present during the period deferred action is in effect. However, deferred action does not confer lawful status upon an individual, nor does it excuse any previous or subsequent periods of unlawful presence.
- Under existing regulations, an individual whose case has been deferred is eligible to receive employment authorization for the period of deferred action, provided he or she can demonstrate “an economic necessity for employment.” DHS can terminate or renew deferred action at any time, at the agency’s discretion.

What is DACA?
- On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several key guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and would then be eligible for work authorization.
- Individuals who can demonstrate through verifiable documentation that they meet these guidelines will be considered for deferred action. Determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis under the DACA guidelines.

[Links to USCIS and ICIRR for more information]
Benefits of DAPA

- Valid for 3 years, thus protection from deportation for 3 year period
- Could get work permits and Social Security Number (SSN)
- Could apply to travel outside of the US (not recommended)
- Driver’s license in some states
- Work authorization

Note: A federal district court in Texas has issued an order that temporarily blocks the DAPA and expanded DACA programs from being implemented. This means that people will not be able to apply for DAPA or expanded DACA until a court issues an order that allows the initiatives to go forward.
http://www.nilc.org/dapa%26daca.html

Renew Your DACA

If your initial two-year grant of deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) is expiring, you may request a renewal. This page explains how to request a renewal:

Make sure you renew on time, before the expiration deadline.

Beware of FRAUD!

- At this time, there is no way to apply yet for DAPA. http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction
- Don’t believe anyone who says they can sign you up for a program now.
- Information will continue to develop, so consult trusted resources only to learn more. For example, online websites with .org and .gov or ask your community leaders whom you can trust.

WARNING: Do NOT take advice about your immigration case from a notary public or an immigration consultant. Contact ONLY a qualified immigration lawyer or an accredited representative for legal advice about your case. A directory of legal service providers in your area is available at www.iamerica.org/find-legal-help. If you encounter notario fraud, report it at www.stopnotariofraud.org.
II. Funding College Education

How it works: How do undocumented students pay for college?

(Case study)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4,875.35 – tuition and fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400 (approx.) – textbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COSTS:</strong> $5275.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarships:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3,000 – Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500 – Scholarship from NEIU's social work department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$550 – NEIU Alumni Association Internship Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS: $4,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,225.35 paid out of pocket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to a student from Northeastern Illinois University, featured in “How undocumented students pay for college” article, college education is obtainable. This student was able to pay her college tuition with various scholarships. Read her story here: [http://www.redyechicago.com/news/local/undocumented-college-students-20141010-story.html](http://www.redyechicago.com/news/local/undocumented-college-students-20141010-story.html)

During Fall semester of 2014, NEIU student, Zitlalli Roman took five classes. Here is how she was paying for them.

Zitlalli Roman at Northeastern Illinois University.

(Philip Dembinski for Redeye) (Philip Dembinski / For RedEye)

**What is Financial Aid?**

Financial aid is comprised of Federal Aid, State Aid, In-State Tuition (HB 60), Government Loans, Private Loans, Government Grants, Institutional Aid, Work-Study and Private Scholarships.

**Financial Aid for the Undocumented Students**

All forms of federal grants and loans are unavailable to undocumented students regardless whether or not they have DACA. Most undocumented students are not eligible for federal, state, government loans, government grants or work-study types of aid. **Note:** Some states may have exceptions or different eligibility requirements.

Undocumented or DACAmented students may be eligible for in-state tuition (HB 60), private loans, institutional aid, or private scholarships depending on the eligibility requirements. **Note:** Some states may have exceptions or different eligibility requirements.
Scholarship Resources
The Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC)
http://www.iacac.org/undocumented/

- IACAC hosts a College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students that may be of assistance in planning college career and it also includes a listing of scholarships.

List of Scholarships

- The Office of Special Scholarships (OSSP) Website - www.go.uic.edu/ossp
- Fiesta Del Sol - http://fiestadelsol.org/scholarship/
- The Anhelo Project Scholarship - http://www.theanheloproject.org/dream-scholarship/
- The Illinois Dream Fund Scholarship - http://www.illinoisdreamfund.org/
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) Scholarship - https://hsf.net/en/scholarships
- Dennis De La Rosa (DDL) Scholarship http://www.ddlrscholarship.org/
- Additional scholarships - http://www.letsgetready.org/GetStarted/High-School-Students/Resources/2B/
- Additional Resources for DREAMer’s Pathway to College: https://chooseyourfuture.cps.edu/high-school-college-career/undocumented-students/

Note: This is not the full list of scholarships; there are additional scholarships that are available, but not listed here for DACAmented and Undocumented students. Consult with your Office of Financial Aid or advisors.
III. Employment & Career Development Related Resources

a. Utilize and learn about the world of work, career exploration, or job related resources at the Office of Career Services. Schedule your appointment (312) 996-2300 or drop by during walk in hours.

b. Visit Student Employment Office to learn about part-time jobs, internships and volunteering opportunities that are available off campus. If you have been approved for DACA, you’re eligible to work in the U.S., which means, you’re eligible to apply for Student Aid work position and Extra Help positions. However, undocumented students are not eligible to participate in federally funded programs. So, even if you have DACA, you are not eligible for Work Study positions.

c. Become a member of student or community organization/club. Various member positions are available and posted for those students who are currently in college, and are willing to advocate for various causes as part of an organization. UIC Campus Programs website has variety of opportunities to get involved with.

d. Volunteer. Volunteering not only gets your foot in the door, but also allows you to explore your interests, acquire transferable skills, as well as to learn about different workplace environments. To find out how to volunteer, visit uicvolunteer.org.

e. Network. Many of job openings are not advertised online; they’re filled by word of a mouth. That is why networking for jobs and internships is another tool to have in the toolbox for job search. Offline (job fairs, networking events, meetups) and online networking (ex. LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com) allow candidates to build relationships with professionals, and to navigate additional job related opportunities.

f. Post-graduation, seek additional assistance from the UIC Alumni Career Center.

g. Explore employment authorization and sponsorships guidelines.
   - Employment Authorization Document Form I-765
     http://www.uscitizenship.info/us-visas/i-765-employment-authorization.jsp
   
   Form I-765 is the Application for Employment Authorization Document. This form is used to request an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) if you are temporarily in the United States. If you are authorized to work in the United States without restrictions you must also use this form to apply for a document that shows this authorization.

   - National Immigration Law Center (NILC) http://nilc.org/dacaworkplacerights.html
     A list of frequently asked questions about employment rights of DACA-approved individuals, prepared by the National Immigration Law Center.

   - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients: Learn About Your Right to Work!

   - DACA and Your Workplace Rights: Learn about hiring process, the beginning of employment, I-9 form, and EAD. http://www.nilc.org/dacaworkplacerights.html

   - Find a Sponsor. Some companies, may hire undocumented students, and provide them with a work visa. How to find a sponsor? Network, attend job fairs, talk to your professional contacts, advisors, counselors, professors, friends of family, and your peers.

     The main ways to immigrate based on a job offer or employment.

   - The Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE) http://www.haceonline.org/
     HACE is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the employment, development, and advancement of current and aspiring Latino Professionals.
Employment Opportunities for DACAmented Students

Teach for America corps member application is open to individuals who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the accompanying Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and social security number, assuming they meet our admissions prerequisites.

Information for Employers

- Hiring DREAMers – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) from the Employer’s Point of View at Hiring
- For Employers: Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Legal Resources

- Immigration Advocates Network - Nonprofit Resource Center
http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/search?state=IL
See center’s list for immigration and legal services directory in Illinois.
- Worker’s Rights
https://www2.illinois.gov/gov/newamericans/Pages/Worker.aspx
Learn about information regarding working rights for Illinois.

Other Information

- These articles explore possible challenges with the job hunt for diverse populations, such as the undocumented or DACAmented. http://resources.monster.com/diversity-inclusion/work
IV. DACAmented/Undocumented Status Impact on Student Mental Health

The Pew Research Center estimates that there are between 200,000 and 225,000 undocumented immigrants enrolled in college. According to the study, In the Shadows of the Ivory Tower: Undocumented Undergraduates and the Liminal State of Immigration Reform, done by Robert T. Teranishi, Carola Suárez-Orozco, and Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, “A higher proportion of DACA recipients (89.6%) than DACA non-recipients (70.8%) reported ongoing worries about the deportations of friends and family, which are correlated with higher levels of anxiety among DACA recipients”.

Main findings of the study:

● Undocumented undergraduates reported significantly elevated levels of anxiety. 28.5% of male and 36.7% of female participants’ anxiety scores were above a clinical cut off level (in contrast to 4% and 9% of a normal population).
● Respondents spoke of their sense of isolation on campus as they felt uncertain about who they could trust.
● Students reported high levels of being treated unfairly or negatively due to their legal status by faculty, counselors, other students, financial aid officers, campus administrators, and security guards/campus police. To view full report: http://undocuscholars.org/assets/undocuscholarsreport2015.pdf

Additional mental health concerns undocumented and DACAmented students may have or may be at risk for:

a. Anxiety
b. Depression
c. Low self-esteem, and lack of confidence
d. Guilt, and shame
e. Financial concerns
f. Lack of role models
g. Fear of deportation for themselves, or their loved ones
h. Lack of trust
i. Financial hardships

Suggestions of How to Help Students

Refer to:

● How to Support Undocumented Students at UIC, Brochure
● Take undocumented student training or seminar
● Loyola’s Guide for the Undocumented Students http://luc.edu/diversity/resources/undocumentedstudentresources/additionalresources/

This is an additional resource for students, their loved ones and their mentors. It provides variety of materials, such as Scholarly Research, Books, and Videos on undocumented students and immigration.

UIC Main Counseling Resources

1. Resources for Undocumented Students http://dream.uic.edu/
2. Visit the Wellness Center http://www.campusrec.illinois.edu/wellnesscenter/partners/counselingCenter.html
3. Seek counseling services in your community http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29728
For Mentors and Students: As a Student You May Encourage Your Institution to Support Undocumented and DACAmented Students

- Emerging Allies: Raising Awareness
  Institutions can provide an action plan of its commitment to raise awareness of undocumented students’ experiences and discuss the steps needed to disseminate information and the resources available to undocumented students with the larger campus community. What is your commitment?
  - Commitment #1: National educators coming out day
  - Commitment #2: Host an undocumented immigrant awareness day
  - Commitment #3: Pass a resolution re-committing to Plyler v Doe
  - Commitment #4: Compile services & resources on your school’s website
  - Commitment #5: Create an undocumented student resource guide or brochure
  - Commitment #6: Institutional statement in support of undocumented students
  - Commitment #7: Start an undocumented student support group or club
  - Campus Support Services: Building Commitment
  Institutions can increase support for undocumented students by implementing or improving programs and support services to better meet the needs of undocumented students. What is your commitment?
  - Commitment #8: Convene a team of frontline staff at your school
  - Commitment #9: Create a tracking system for undocumented students
  - Commitment #10: Host an UndocuWeek on your campus
  - Commitment #11: Implement the UndocuPeers ally training at your school
  - Commitment #12: Host an educators conference at your school
  - Commitment #13: Provide free legal counseling to undocumented students
  - Commitment #14: Host a free DACA or Executive Actions clinic
  - Commitment #15: Create a taskforce of educators and students
  - Commitment #16: Challenge the accessibility of institutional aid & scholarships
  - Commitment #17: Create a book lending system
  - Commitment #18: Train your staff to work with DACA recipients
  - Commitment #19: Create the opportunity for undocumented students to serve as student government

Institutional Champion: Systemic Policy Change. Institutions can embed support for undocumented students with organizational structures, policy changes, and new institutional or systemwide initiatives that include scholarship funds, financial aid programs, or broader campaigns aimed at increasing undocumented students’ access and retention.
  - Commitment #20: Create the opportunity for on-campus student employment
  - Commitment #21: Amend or create job positions that work with & support undocumented students
  - Commitment #22: Create access to emergency funding
  - Commitment #23: Create a scholarship fund at your institution
  - Commitment #24: Create a DACA scholarship or lending circle
  - Commitment #25: Implement & host an orientation for undocumented students
  - Commitment #26: Invest in a resource center for undocumented students
  - Commitment #27: Create a class inclusive of the realities & successes of undocumented immigrants
  - Commitment #28: Co-lead an institutional education equity campaign
  - Commitment #29: Co-lead a statewide or national education equity campaign
V. Support Groups and Organizations

There are various support groups on and off campus:

- **Join Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) [http://lares.uic.edu/](http://lares.uic.edu/)** and Fearless Undocumented Alliance and Heritage Garden Student Group to collaborate on projects advocating for undocumented students. These groups and organizations are great opportunities to get involved, obtain transferable skills, network and raise awareness.

- **The Anhelo Project**
  
  Organization’s goal is to support undocumented students, who despite growing up in the United States and earning their high school diplomas, continuously face challenging road blocks when pursuing a post-secondary education. This group is run by student leaders: [http://www.theanheloproject.org/](http://www.theanheloproject.org/) Scholarships and Volunteer opportunities for students: [http://www.theanheloproject.org/dream-scholarship/](http://www.theanheloproject.org/dream-scholarship/)

- **The DREAM Educational Empowerment Program (DEEP)**
  
  DEEP is a catalyst for educational justice and empowerment for immigrant students. DEEP educates, connects, and empowers immigrant students, parents and educators to close the opportunity gap and engage in local efforts to improve educational equity. Tuition Equity For Undocumented Students Access By State [http://unitedwedream.org/about/projects/education-deep/](http://unitedwedream.org/about/projects/education-deep/)

- **The Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL) [http://www.iyjl.org/](http://www.iyjl.org/)**
  
  IYJL is a Chicago-based organization led by undocumented organizers working towards full recognition of the rights and contributions of all immigrants through education, leadership development, policy advocacy, resource gathering, and mobilization.

Other Ways to Get Involved

- Collaborate with other college student groups and organizations to raise awareness together
  
  For example, Northeastern Illinois University hosts own group - **Undocumented, Resilient and Organized Club (URO) [https://www.facebook.com/uroneiu](https://www.facebook.com/uroneiu)**

- Support HB 3528 -- Equal Opportunity for Financial Aid
  
  Undocumented students must overcome multiple, unique obstacles simply to gain college admission. But because they are not eligible for state financial aid, most have to struggle to even cover tuition. Passage of HB 3528 will enable all residents of Illinois, including undocumented students, equal opportunity to apply for state financial aid. To take action, and to give ALL ILLINOIS STUDENTS a chance to gain a college degree, support their families, and contribute to the economic prosperity of our state. [http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6220/c/1364/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19793](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6220/c/1364/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19793)

  This project is part of the Nation Inside, of Working Narratives based in Wilmington, NC. Nation Inside is a community of people dedicated to changing the U.S. criminal justice system. They do this by using collective voices to:

  - spark public dialogue about criminal justice
  - educate policy makers
  - develop strategies for safer and healthier communities
IV. Immigration, Community and Other Resources for Undocumented

Community Resources

- **Logan Square Neighborhood Association**

- **Illinois People’s Action (IPA)** [http://www.illinoispeoplesaction.org/inmigrantes.html](http://www.illinoispeoplesaction.org/inmigrantes.html)
  Faith based community services organizations. illinoispeoplesaction.org, L.U.C. is I.P.A.’s Latino and Immigrant organizing group. The mission of the group is to educate our community regarding Latino issues, to empower Latino citizens and immigrants to become full partners in the local, state and national dialogue around justice issues that affect them, and to provide them with the training and tools to organize around those issues.

  Program provides immigrant families with bilingual services to provide pathways to success.

- **Afire Chicago** [http://afirechicago.org/index.php/work/issues](http://afirechicago.org/index.php/work/issues)
  “At AFIRE, we believe that strategic alliances and partnerships are vital to serve not only the Filipino immigrant community, but to further the common good. We frame our advocacy around the tenets of movement building, social justice, and community development. AFIRE's programs address four key social justice areas that align with our mission and values:

  1. Health and Wellness
  2. Migration, Immigration, and Integration
  3. Civic and Community Engagement
  4. Human Rights and Advocacy

- **Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community** [https://www.facebook.com/CBCACChicago/timeline](https://www.facebook.com/CBCACChicago/timeline)
  Coalition is advocating for community empowerment in the heart of Chicago’s Chinatown.

  Advancing Justice-Chicago works to empower the Asian American community by:

  - Increasing public understanding about Asian American communities,
  - Advocating for policies that promote social, economic, educational and political equity of the community as a whole,
  - Encouraging active civic participation through education and advocating for equal rights, and
  - Working in partnership with and supporting like-minded organizations and individuals to build positive interracial and inter-ethnic relations.

- **Asian Law Caucus** [http://www.asianlawcaucus.org/](http://www.asianlawcaucus.org/)
  The mission of Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus is to promote, advance, and represent the legal and civil rights of API communities. Recognizing that social, economic, political and racial inequalities continue to exist in the United States, Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of our society with a specific focus directed toward addressing the needs of low-income, immigrant, and underserved APIs.
Student Guides

- Life After College: A Guide for Undocumented Students (Published by Educators for FAIR Consideration)
- Repository of Resources for Undocumented Students (Published by the College Board)
- IL DREAM ACT Undocumented Student Guide to College
- IL DREAM ACT Counselor Guide to Resources for Undocumented Students
- College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students (Published by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling)
- City Colleges of Chicago Undocumented Student Resources.
  http://www.ccc.edu/departments/Pages/CCC-Undocumented-Student-Resources.aspx
  City Colleges seeks to foster a welcoming environment for all students, regardless of immigration status. Numerous initiatives, both within the institution and in partnership with immigrant-serving allies, work to ensure City Colleges of Chicago responds to new immigration policies affecting our students so they may be prepared to pursue their life’s goals.

Related Articles with Information Regarding Undocumented Students

- 6 Things Undocumented Students Need to Know About College
  https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students/6-things-undocumented-students-need-to-know-about-college
- Loyola accepts limited number of undocumented/DACAmented students compared to the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine which requires applicants to have U.S. Citizen Status: Every applicant must be a U.S. citizen or possess a permanent resident immigrant visa at the time the application is submitted to AMCAS.
- New Program Covers Undocumented Chicago Students' College Costs
  http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/new_program_covers_college_costs_for_undocumented_chicago_students.html
- Not The Same Old Boss: One in eight undocumented immigrants in the U.S. now has a white-collar job, by Rob Wile. http://fusion.net/story/110023/one-in-eight-undocumented-immigrants-now-has-a-white-collar-gig/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=thisisfusion&hootPostID=96a066d61701e0fc5ada02fe37c9b903
- Undocumented Student Guide to College
- LSNA Dreamer Info Flyer
- For Undocumented Students: Questions and Answers About Paying for College
  https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students/questions-and-answers-about-paying-for-college