

# UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

## FAST FACTS

- Approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year and would be eligible under the Dream Act for conditional status and eventual permanent status.<sup>1</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants contribute significantly to state and local taxes, collectively paying an estimated \$11.64 billion a year.<sup>2</sup>
- Over 75% of undocumented student participants reported being worried about being detained or deported. 55.9% reported personally knowing someone who had been deported including a parent (5.7%) or a sibling (3.2%).<sup>3</sup>



## BASICS

### What does it mean to be undocumented?

A person who is undocumented is a person who 1) entered the United States without inspection or with fraudulent document; or 2) entered legally as a nonimmigrant then violated the terms of their status and remained in the United States without authorization. Being undocumented or living with parents who are undocumented often means growing up with the fear that you or your parents may be separated at any moment. But it also means that some seemingly normal tasks, such as applying for college or a job, become even more complicated.

### What is DACA?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an American immigration policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country before the age of 16 and before June 2007 to receive a renewable two-year work permit and exemption from deportation.<sup>4</sup>

### Everyone's Rights

Knowing your rights is important for the protection of your rights and to respect the rights of others.

***“Every single immigrant we have, undocumented or documented, is a future American. That’s just the truth of it.”***

*– Junot Diaz*

## RIGHTS

### Can I apply to Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

Yes and no. UNLV does encourage DACA students to fill out the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. DACA status and undocumented students are not currently eligible for federal financial aid programs. However, because a deferred action status student can obtain a valid social security number, the free application for FAFSA can be completed.<sup>5</sup> Once submitted you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) which may assist in helping you find scholarships. Some institutions also request copies of your SAR to waive the graduate school application fee.

### Can I apply to Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if my parents are undocumented?

Yes, if you, the student, is a US Citizen but one or more parents are undocumented, then you are still eligible for federal student aid. Never supply a fake social security number (SSN) or submit a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) that is valid for work purposes only as the FAFSA application will be rejected.<sup>6</sup>

### Are there scholarships available to me?

Yes. There are multiple scholarships specifically geared towards undocumented students striving for an education. Websites such as Fastweb.com and Scholarships.com are great online tools to help you find a scholarship that fits your needs. In addition, UNLV's CSUN student government has a wide variety of scholarships in which any current UNLV student is eligible for regardless of citizenship status.

### How do I get an on-campus job?

For jobs on-campus you need to be part of the Dream Act, have an Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I-766), and a SSN card that states "Valid for work only with INS authorization" or "Valid for work only with DHS authorization". You can then search for jobs online via Career Services' [Hire A Rebel Careerlink](#).

### **Can I get a driver's license?**

Nevada residents who cannot meet the proof of identity requirements for a driver's license or ID card may be able to obtain a Driver Authorization Card (DAC). These cards authorize the holder to drive a motor vehicle on Nevada public streets and highways. A DAC is not valid as identification to obtain any state benefits, licenses or services or for federal purposes such as boarding aircraft or entering facilities where ID is required.<sup>7</sup>

### **Can I study abroad?**

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students may be able to study abroad through a process called advance parole.<sup>8</sup> Advance parole is a request in advance for permission to enter the United States at a future time. However, advance parole is not a guarantee of re-entry and it is strongly encouraged you seek counsel with an immigration attorney before pursuing study abroad. Contact UNLV's [Office of International Programs](#) for DACA student study abroad advising.

### **Can I access health services on campus?**

The Student Health Center (SHC) at UNLV provides high quality, comprehensive primary care and specialty services to enrolled students. A myriad of acute and chronic diseases, as well as accidents and injuries, are treated in the nationally accredited health center by licensed health care providers. The SHC also offers an accredited clinical laboratory on-site, as well as a full-service accredited pharmacy. The health fee provides access at no cost to SHC services and programs each semester; however, there is a charge for prescriptions, lab tests, and other procedures. International and graduate students may call the program officer at 702-895-0542 for questions related to the Student Health Insurance plan. These resources on campus are provided for all students regardless of citizenship status. For more information regarding SHC services please go to [www.unlv.edu/srwc/health-center](http://www.unlv.edu/srwc/health-center).

### **Does UNLV provide legal advice?**

No, UNLV does not provide students with legal advice. However, CSUN student government does offer free consultations with an attorney for undergraduate students. In addition, the Law School has a clinic focused primarily on people who are in deportation proceedings and has limited resources to offer.<sup>9</sup> The clinic can also sometimes provide informal advice. Visit the clinic's website at <https://law.unlv.edu/clinics> for more information.

### **How can I advocate for my rights?**

There are many methods of advocating for your rights. In fact, you may already be an advocate if you have ever publicly supported a particular cause or policy in class, at work, or on social media. Therefore, there are many ways to become a stronger advocate such as educating yourself about the issues you feel strongly about. Joining an organization is also a great way to find like-minded individuals to raise concerns and gain more perspective on an issue. If the issue is policy based, lobbying is a great method of advocacy where you can take your issues directly to the governing body to influence change.

### **MUST READ**

- Perez, I. (n.d.). *Life after college: A guide for Undocumented students*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <http://www.e4fc.org/resources/lifeaftercollegeguide.html>
- Thorpe, H. (2009). *Just like us: The true story of four Mexican girls coming of age in America*. New York: Scribner.
- Pérez, W. (2009). *We are Americans: Undocumented students pursuing the American dream*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.

### **RESOURCES**

- [Immigration Equality – Path to Status in the U.S.](#)
- USA Today College [FAFSA Application tips for students with undocumented parents](#)
- U.S. Department of Education. (Oct 20, 2015). *Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth* [www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf)

### **Works Cited**

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6. Edvisors. (2015, February). *Am I eligible for financial aid if my parents are undocumented?* Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <https://www.edvisors.com/ask/ask-the-advisor/fafsa-undocumented-parents-02-2015/>
7. Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. (n.d.). *Driver authorization cards*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <http://www.dmvnv.com/dac.htm>
8. NAFSA. (2015, October 27). *Resource page on deferred action for childhood arrivals: For international student advisers and education abroad advisers*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from [https://www.nafsa.org/Resource\\_Library\\_Assets/Regulatory\\_Information/Resource\\_Page\\_On\\_Deferred\\_Action\\_f\\_or\\_Childhood\\_Arrivals/](https://www.nafsa.org/Resource_Library_Assets/Regulatory_Information/Resource_Page_On_Deferred_Action_f_or_Childhood_Arrivals/)
9. UNLV School of Law. (n.d.). *Our clinics*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <https://law.unlv.edu/clinics>

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