



# **College Access for Undocumented Students**

## **2016 Toolkit**

**Last Updated 5/20/16**

**Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition**

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Undocumented students face unique challenges when applying for college. Some colleges and universities view undocumented students as out-of-state or international students, and charge higher tuition rates than for other residents of Pennsylvania. Many scholarships and types of financial aid are not open to undocumented students. For many students, this means putting a hold on or ending to dreams of attending college.

PICC is committed to advocating for policy changes that will level the playing field, and allow undocumented students to qualify for the same tuition rates and local scholarships available to other residents of Pennsylvania. While we work to enact these policies, this toolkit contains tips and resources to help undocumented students navigate the sometimes complicated work of applying for college and financial aid.

**DISCLAIMER: The information in this toolkit is based on personal experience of students, educators and members of PICC across Pennsylvania and has been compiled by our staff.** We want this resource guide to be as comprehensive and useful as possible. If you know of any resources not listed in here, please let us know! Contact Maria Sotomayor at [mariasotomayor@paimmigrant.org](mailto:mariasotomayor@paimmigrant.org) or 215-832-3482 if you have any feedback, suggestions, or edits.

**Get involved!** It is everyone's responsibility to continue pushing for access to education for ALL students regardless of immigration status. We encourage immigrant youth from all backgrounds to get involved! Share your stories and experiences, tell family and friends. Don't remain in silence. We will support you along the way. Teachers, school counselors and allies are also welcome! Be part of our movement and fight for education justice for all students of Pennsylvania.

This toolkit is divided into three sections:

- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- Admission and Financial Aid Policies at Pennsylvania Schools
- General and Community Resources
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

### **Scholarship tips:**

- Look for private scholarships that don't require proof of legal status or citizenship
- Call your school(s) of choice and ask about private scholarship opportunities

### **National Scholarship Resources:**

Visit these sites for lists of scholarships available for undocumented students. Make sure to review the rules for applying and keep track of application deadlines.

**Generation Progress:** Over 30 scholarships listed.

<http://genprogress.org/about/scholarships-for-undocumented-students-2/>

**Golden Doors Scholars:** <http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/application/open>

**United We Dream:**

<http://unitedwedream.org/blog/6-scholarship-opportunities-undocumented-students>

**College Green Light:** Undocumented student section.

<http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/easy-scholarships-for-undocumented-students>

**Univision Scholarship-** Open to Undocumented students **deadline 3/30/16**

[mydocumentedlife.org/2016/01/08/2016-2017-becas-univision-scholarship-open-to-undocumented-students/](http://mydocumentedlife.org/2016/01/08/2016-2017-becas-univision-scholarship-open-to-undocumented-students/)

**Dreamer's Roadmap:** Mobile app to help undocumented students find scholarships.

<http://dreamersroadmap.com>

## Admission and Financial Aid Policies at Pennsylvania Schools

- **\*CCS-** The **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE** (often written as **CSS PROFILE**), short for the College Scholarship Service Profile, is an application distributed by the [College Board](#) in the [United States](#) allowing college students to apply for [financial aid](#). It is primarily designed to give private member institutions of the College Board a closer look into the finances of a student and family. It is much more detailed than the [FAFSA](#).
- The CSS Profile asks questions about the financial status of the student and the student's parents. The information the student gives in the CSS Profile is then sent to [colleges](#) or [universities](#) that the student specifies.
- Along with the [FAFSA](#), the CSS Profile is the most common financial aid application that students in the United States fill out.
- **Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)-** 14 Universities that make up the PASSHE system provide in-state tuition rates to anyone who has been "domiciled" in Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup> "Domicile" is defined as "[t]he place where one intends to reside permanently or indefinitely and does

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<sup>1</sup> 22 PA. CODE § 507.2 (2015).

in fact so reside.”<sup>2</sup>Under this policy, undocumented students may pay in-state tuition if they can provide clear and convincing evidence of having been “domiciled” in Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup>

**PASSHE Schools:** Bloomsburg, Cheyney, East Stroudsburg, Indiana, Lock Haven, Millersville, Slippery Rock, California, Clarion, Edinboro, Kutztown, Mansfield, Shippensburg, West Chester

- Other Pennsylvania state schools may consider admitting undocumented students at in-state tuition rates but such practices are neither uniform nor part of an established policy.

Institution	Admission Policy for Undocumented Students	Financial Aid Availability	Contact Advocates	Updated
<b>Albright College</b>	Considered international students. The student must complete an international student form showing how they will fund their education.	Phi Theta members can receive a scholarship between \$27,000 and \$30,000. This is a scholarship open to anyone.	Myrna Fuchs myrnashfuchs@gmail.com	11/5/15
<b>Alvernia University</b>	No information available on student category consideration  Students can get connected with the college through the Olivet College Access Program	Reading Collegiate Scholars Scholarship Program Financial aid available  DACA students may be eligible for full tuition depending on education achievement	Myrna Fuchs myrnashfuchs@gmail.com	11/5/15

<sup>2</sup> 22 PA. CODE § 507.1 (2015).

<sup>3</sup>22 PA. CODE § 507.3(2) (2015).

Institution	Admission Policy for Undocumented Students	Financial Aid Availability	Contact Advocates	Updated
<b>Delaware County Community College</b>	First Community college to publicly announce “open door policy” for undocumented students. Undocumented students receive in-county rates as long as the student graduated from a sponsoring district. Other district students will receive in-state tuition rate. Check the “No Status” check box in application	Scholarships for undocumented students available: <b>“Future Citizens” and “Dream Scholarship”</b> – Please check website for more information and dates	Veronica Rodriguez vrodriquez6@dccc.edu  Jose mazenett jmazenett@dccc.edu	12/15/15
<b>Franklin and Marshall College</b>	Considered international. Submit the school’s International Financial Aid Form when applying for admission. Complete the CSS Profile and Parents’ Tax Returns.  <a href="#">F&amp;M makes public commitment to create access to higher education for undocumented students</a>	TheDream.US scholarship partner.  DACA students in good academic stands and meet financial need can potentially receive full assistance for 4 years. Must apply and check in with Admissions	Dr. Freud robert.freund@fandm.edu	10/5/15
<b>Gettysburg College</b>	Considered international student  Limited space for DACA students (4-5 spots per year)  Part of TheDream.Us national scholarship fund. Please check <a href="http://www.thedream.us/scholars">www.thedream.us/scholars</a> for more information	The Dream.US scholarship program for undocumented students provides financial aid for DACA students only. Please talk to a counselor at Gettysburg about this scholarship and any possible financial aid available to you	Mauricio Casa de La Cultura (Gettysburg) mauricionova03@gmail.com	12/8/15

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Admission Policy for Undocumented Students</b>	<b>Financial Aid Availability</b>	<b>Contact Advocates</b>	<b>Updated</b>
<b>Haverford College</b>	Considered international students and fee waivers available. Complete Profile Application and submit tax returns. <a href="http://www.haverford.edu/financialaid/forms.php">http://www.haverford.edu/financialaid/forms.php</a> Financial aid is not available for transfer students.	Eligible for full need-based financial assistance. (only 3 spots available)		
<b>Lafayette College</b>	Considered international students. Meets the full demonstrated financial need of international students. Must complete the CSS Profile.	Financial aid available	Director of Admissions	11/2/15
<b>La Salle University</b>	Considered in-state students.  Talk to admissions counselor about status.	No financial aid available	Associate Director of International Admissions Marc Vallone vallonem2@lasalle.edu	3/7/16
<b>Lehigh University</b>	Considered international student.  Complete the CSS Profile or International Student Financial Aid Application and the Certification of Finances.  Lehigh College Access Program enrolled students may be eligible for full or partial tuition coverage (DACA & non DACA)	Merit scholarships may also be awarded on a limited basis. No application is necessary for merit scholarships.  Awards financial aid on the basis of demonstrated need.  Transfer students are not eligible for need based or merit based financial aid.	Myrna Fuchs myrnashfuchs@gmail.com	11/2/15
<b>Lycoming College's</b>	6 undocumented students will be fund in 2016		Myrna Fuchs myrnashfuchs@gmail.com	11/12/15
<b>Millersville University</b>	Considered in state student	Unknown		5/10/16

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Admission Policy for Undocumented Students</b>	<b>Financial Aid Availability</b>	<b>Contact Advocates</b>	<b>Updated</b>
<b>Muhlenberg College</b>	Considered as international student. General admissions application.	Presidential merit scholarship and other merit scholarships available to undocumented students	Erika Sutherland Associate Professor of Spanish Office: 484-664-3518 emsuther@muhlenberg.edu	12/15/15
<b>Neumann University</b>	Considered as International Complete International Student Application for Financial Aid and Scholarship when applying for admission	Offer private and presidential scholarships for students	Sr. Marguerite O’Bernie, OSF Vice President for Mission & Ministry 610-558-5511 mobernie@neumann.edu	10/5/15
<b>PASSHE Schools</b>	In-state tuition rates for undocumented students residents of Pennsylvania.  Apply as in-state student (see top for information on eligibility for in-state tuition.  Some schools like: West Chester, Millersville, Kutztown follow this policy without much explanation from student on status. Reach out to the PASSSHE school you wish to apply to learn about your application process and if there is any financial aid available.	unknown		11/15/15
<b>Penn State University</b>	Apply as international student, share with college counselor about DACA status and documentation of residency in Pennsylvania to obtain in-state tuition rate.  No in-state tuition rates available for non DACA undocumented students	Unknown Merit scholarships for Science and Engineering  Maybe able to get transfer scholarships	Eliel Acosta Admissions Counselor Mont Alto Campus eaa16@psu.edu 717- 749-6141  Maria Tinoco Admissions Counselor at Berks County Penn State met16@psu.edu 610-396-6016	11/2/15

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Admission Policy for Undocumented Students</b>	<b>Financial Aid Availability</b>	<b>Contact Advocates</b>	<b>Updated</b>
<b>Reading Area Community College (RACC)</b>	Apply as international students In county rates for DACA recipients only. Out of state rates for undocumented non DACA students	See Reading Financial Aid Resources for list of scholarships available		1/11/16
<b>Rosemont College</b>	Considered international student	unknown	Dennis Murphy Vice President for Enrollment Management (610) 527-0200 x2905 <a href="mailto:dennis.murphy@rosemont.edu">dennis.murphy@rosemont.edu</a>	12/8/15
<b>Swarthmore College</b>	Considered international students. Policy change to support undocumented students	Financial aid decision is offered to students on the basis of their demonstrated financial needs only.		11/10/15
<b>Temple University</b>	Not clear: Considered international students or in-state students.	Unknown		3/25/16
<b>The Restaurant School At Walnut Hill College</b>	Considered in-state student	Unknown		3/23/16
<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	Only need-based financial aid is awarded when admitted. (Committed to meeting 100% of student's determined need without loans.	Complete the Penn Financial Aid Supplement, the CSS Profile, and the Parents' and Student's Tax Returns  Penn for Immigrant Rights scholarship awarded to first generation immigrant or undocumented student		11/2/15



Institution	Admission Policy for Undocumented Students	Financial Aid Availability	Contact Advocates	Updated
<b>West Chester University</b>	Considered in-state students Online application has a “No status” check box	Small scholarship granted to undocumented students by Latino Led Organization. Students must apply for scholarship every year.	Professor Linda Stevenson l Stevenson@wcupa.edu  Student Liaison: Kim Cuellar KC770519@wcupa.edu	5/20/16

Help us stay updated on new policies, advocates, scholarships, etc. Please take a few minutes to share your experience applying to schools by filling out our survey: [tinyurl.com/tuitionequitysurvey](http://tinyurl.com/tuitionequitysurvey)

## General Resources

### Department of Education Resource Guide:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf>

### United We Dream- The DREAM Educational - Empowerment Program DEEP

[unitedwedream.org/about/projects/education-deep](http://unitedwedream.org/about/projects/education-deep)

### How to fill out FAFSA for DACAmented students webinar by UWD:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHfOu\\_I9fWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHfOu_I9fWw)

### Undocu- FAFSA and Common Application Tips for Undocumented Students video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn\\_ZkigpJvU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn_ZkigpJvU)

**Educators for Fair Consideration E4FC** [www.e4cf.org](http://www.e4cf.org)

**National Immigration Law Center (NILC):** [www.nilc.org/education](http://www.nilc.org/education)

**National Council of La Raza Resource Guide:** [www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org)

**Big Future by the College Board:** <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students>

**Federal Student Aid:** [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov)

### Financial Aid and Undocumented Students:

[studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf)

## Community Resources

### Berks County

**GRIP DREAMer Scholarship:** For students whose immigration status (or lack thereof) does not allow them to apply for student loans or grants. Applicants meet the following requirements to apply:

- seniors at or graduates of a high school located in Berks County, Pennsylvania;
- applicant's current primary home at time of application must be located in Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- Applicants must be age 30 or under, and it is preferred that applicants have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Status.
- Applicants who are high school seniors or who have not yet attended college must have obtained a high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or an 85% or higher on a 100% scale.
- Applicants who are currently attending college or who previously attended college must have obtained a college cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in order to apply.
- Family income must be 187% of the federal poverty level or less (approximately \$44,000 for a family of four).

This scholarship is possible because of community support. You can make a tax-deductible donation to: Berks County Community Foundation, 237 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. Att: GRIP DREAMer Scholarship. Visit [www.readinggrip.org](http://www.readinggrip.org) to learn more about GRIP.

**Reading Collegiate Scholars Scholarship Program:** Must go to a high school in the city of Reading which would include RHS, Berks Catholic and I-Lead.

**Olivet Boys and Girls Club Scholarship-** students must be members of the Boys and Girls of Reading

**Join the De Facto American Support Group.** Youth-led group for undocumented students, DACA recipients and citizen allies. DeFacto Americans provide education, resources, and emotional support to others who are in the pursuit of the American Dream. DeFacto meets the first Monday of every month in the evenings and is to high school and college students. Please e-mail [defactoamerican@gmail.com](mailto:defactoamerican@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.readinggrip.org/de-facto-american-support-group/> for more information or to express interest about attending a meeting.

### Chester County

**Chester County Youth group:** meets the second Sunday of every month at 12pm at St. Agnes Day Room located on 233 West Gay Street, West Chester PA. Contact Maria Sotomayor at 215-832-3482.

**Chester County Luncheon:** Meets once a month in different locations to discuss issues and provide resources for the development of the Latino community of Chester County. The group also sponsors regular fundraisers to create scholarships for Chester county students. Last summer, DACA recipient became the first undocumented scholarship recipient. The group wants to continue supporting Latino students including undocumented Latino students.

### Delaware County

**Delco Youth Group:** PICC and Centro de Apoyo immigrant youth led group, meets the last Saturday of every month at 12pm at St. Alice Rectory located on 150 Hampton Drive, Upper Darby PA. Contact Maria Sotomayor

**Centro de Apoyo Comunitario:** community, women led organization in the heart of Upper Darby, serves as a point of resource for immigrant communities, primarily Latino but is open to all.

### Philadelphia County

**Juntos:** Grassroots organization, serves Latino immigrant community in Philadelphia and Norristown. Visit [www.vamosjuntos.org](http://www.vamosjuntos.org) to learn more about Juntos youth leadership team Fuerza and obtain more information about college access.

**Migrant Power Movement:** Formerly known as Pennsylvania Dream Activists, is an immigrant youth led group, determined to create power through education and support of our immigrant community.

## **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

Deferred Action (DACA) is a procedure that allows certain non-citizens to stay in the US and work legally, without fear of deportation, for a period of 2 years. Those granted Deferred Action will be eligible for a work permit, social security card, and certain state ID's, such as a driver's license.

Deferred Action is NOT the Dream Act. It does not lead to permanent residency or a "green card."

### **Am I eligible for Deferred Action?**

In order to qualify for Deferred Action, you must prove that you meet ALL of the eligibility requirements below:

- **Must have entered the U.S. before you were 16 years old**
- **Must have lived in the U.S continuously since June 15, 2007**
- **Must not have had lawful immigration status on June 15, 2012**
- **Must be at least 15 years old** – unless you are in removal proceedings, or have a previous order for removal or voluntary departure
- **Must be 30 years and under as of June 15, 2012** (a person who has turned 31 is not eligible to apply for DACA now)
- **Must have graduated high school, be currently in school, have obtained a GED, or be an honorably discharged military veteran.**
- School includes: GED course, career training, and ESL classes IF they lead to post-secondary education. *If you enroll in school now, you can still qualify even if you have never attended school in the U.S. before.*
- **Must not have been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor or three or more misdemeanor offenses** – DUIs can be considered a significant misdemeanor
- **Must not pose a threat to national security**

**IF YOU MEET ALL ABOVE REQUIREMENTS YOU MAY APPLY FOR DACA NOW!**

On November 20, 2014 President Obama announced an extension of his DACA executive action to allow more undocumented youth to qualify from DACA's benefits. There have been changes to the dates of entry and no longer an age cap to qualify. Below are the extended dates of DACA:

- If you entered the US before your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday,
- Have lived in the US since January 10, 2010
- present in the US on November 20, 2014
- of any age (removes the requirement to have been born since June 15, 1981);
- and meet all previous DACA requirements you may qualify for the extension of DACA.

**Those that qualify under the new extension are not able to apply for DACA at the moment.**

We do encourage you to prepare, gather documentation and start saving money. Stay connected with PICC and other immigrant rights organizations to learn how and when to apply.

**Please be careful with public notaries (notarios) and unscrupulous lawyers.**