

# I am undocumented and live in Idaho...can I go to college?

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## Can I go to college?

Yes! Federal law does not prohibit undocumented students from attending college.

## How will I pay for it? Am I eligible for in-state tuition? Am I eligible for in-state financial aid?

As of April 2018, only students with DACA are eligible to receive in-state tuition. Students must be living in Idaho, and must additionally have (1) matriculated (graduated) from an accredited Idaho high school and attend college within 6 years of graduation OR (2) have attended a total of 6 years in elementary and secondary school (does not have to be sequential) in Idaho and attends college within 6 years of graduating a high school in the United States.

Currently undocumented students, regardless of DACA status, are ineligible for state financial aid in Idaho.

### I HAVE DACA. WHAT NEXT?

Complete a [Residency Determination Worksheet](#). You must also attach a copy of the letter which you received from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) notifying you of your DACA status. You must submit your online or paper application for your chosen college or university with the required admission fee. For more information contact the Residency Officer at the college or university you are applying to, or the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Residency Determination Worksheet:  
<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/wp->

### I DO NOT QUALIFY FOR DACA. WHAT DO I DO?

Apply for private scholarships without citizenship requirements (see list below).

Don't rule out private colleges. Many private colleges offer substantial financial aid packages, and may make attending college possible.

**My DACA status will expire before I will graduate. What will that mean for paying tuition?**

The answer will probably depend on the institution. Contact the Residency Officer at the college or university you are applying to, or the Office of Multicultural Affairs for more information.

**Am I eligible to federal financial aid if I am undocumented?**

No.

**The college I am applying to asks that I fill out a Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Does that mean I can't apply? What do I do?**

Some colleges request that you fill out a FAFSA for internal aid purposes. In this case, undocumented students without DACA can fill in "0's" for the social security number (000-00-0000); students with DACA would fill in their social security number like any other student, but are still ineligible for federal aid.

**I am afraid of disclosing my status to my high school counselor. Is there anyone else who can help me navigate the college and financial aid application process?**

You are not alone:

- Almost 30,000 U.S. citizens in Idaho have at least one undocumented family member
- Undocumented immigrants represented about 42 percent of Idaho's immigrant population and 2.7 percent of the state population in 2014
- 58,327 people in Idaho, including 26,926 individuals born in the United States, had at least one undocumented family member between 2010-2014.<sup>1</sup>

Numerous organizations in Idaho may be able to answer questions or help connect you to people who can help you answer your questions:

- The Community Council of Idaho
- Idaho DACA Students
- The Idaho Organizing Project
- PODER of Idaho
- The American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho
- Centro de Comunidad y Justicia

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<sup>1</sup> American Immigration Council. "Immigrants in Idaho." American Immigration Council. October 26, 2017. Accessed April 04, 2018. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-idaho>.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs at colleges and universities might also be able to help you find answers specific to the colleges and universities you want to apply to.

### Where can I find scholarships?

Here is a list of scholarships without a citizenship requirement:

- Act on a Dream at Harvard- <http://www.actonadream.org/resources/scholarships/>
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus- [www.chci.org/scholarships/](http://www.chci.org/scholarships/)
- Educators for Fair Consideration- [http://www.e4fc.org/images/TradUndergrad\\_List2016\\_Final.pdf](http://www.e4fc.org/images/TradUndergrad_List2016_Final.pdf)
- Generation Progress- <http://genprogress.org/about/scholarships-for-undocumented-students-2/>
- Golden Doors Scholar- [www.goldendoorscholars.org/apply.html](http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/apply.html)  
Deadline: October 3, 2018
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation- [www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs](http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs)
- MALDEF- [www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/](http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/)
- Scholarships A-Z- <http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships/>
- Scholarships open to Undocumented Students:  
<https://mydocumentedlife.org/2016/09/12/scholarships-open-to-undocumented-students/>
- SHPE Foundation- <https://mydocumentedlife.org/2016/09/12/scholarships-open-to-undocumented-students/>
- The Dream.US- <http://www.thedream.us/scholarship-programs/>
- USHLI- (Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr. Scholarship- <http://www.ushli.org/>

### Additional Scholarship Opportunities for DACA Students and/or Mexican students and students of Mexican Origin:

- Idaho DACA students can apply the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship (students must submit a FAFSA to determine their EFC and may qualify for up to \$3,500 a year):  
<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships/idaho-opportunity-scholarship/>
- Additionally, colleges in Idaho may have the IME-BECAS program which is funding provided by the Mexican Consulate. Undocumented/DACA Mexican students and students of Mexican origin can apply for this scholarship. Schools that received funding for 2018 are **University of Idaho, College of Western Idaho, and Idaho State University**. Students need to follow up with the respective scholarship offices for more information.

### Where can I find more information?

Here are some places to start your search:

- Download the [Dreamer's Roadmap Mobile Application](#)
- Visit [Educators for Fair Consideration's \(E4FC\)](#) website for information about college attendance, scholarships and financial aid for undocumented students
- Read [¡Gradúate! -Financial Aid Guide to Success Website](#) and Guide provided by the Department of Education for information about the FAFSA, the college enrollment process and other aid resources to support Hispanics, including students with and without DACA
- Watch United We Dream's short video "[I have DACA and I can fill out the FAFSA? Say What!](#)"
- Visit the [National Immigration Law Center's](#) website for updates on DACA and other immigration issues
- Visit the United We Dream for updates on DACA and information about supporting Dreamers on their [website](#) or on [Facebook](#)
- Visit the University Leadership Initiative at their [website](#) or on [Facebook](#) for updates on immigration news and resources for students