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# Information for Undocumented Students

## What is the Law?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of every students' educational records. This means you can be honest with colleges about your immigration status because your information is protected under this Act.

There is no federal law that prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges and universities, public or private. However, undocumented students are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, including Pell grants, Stafford loans, Work-Study jobs, and Pennsylvania State grants.

It is illegal to deny the services encompassed in a public K-12 education, like guidance counseling and educational assistance, to undocumented students. Take advantage of these resources!

## How Will I Pay?

Policies of tuition classification (in-state vs. international) and eligibility for institutional aid vary from school to school. To qualify for "in-state tuition" at a public college, students must provide proof of residency within the state. At private college, undocumented students are usually treated as international students/ Contact each college's admissions and financial aid offices to find out about their policies for undocumented students.

Private scholarships are a great option for undocumented students. Some don't require U.S. Citizenship, while others have been created especially for undocumented students. For a list of scholarships, visit <http://www.e4fc.org/scholarshiplist.html>

## What is DACA?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grants eligible undocumented individuals protection from deportation, employment authorization, and the ability to obtain an SSN and a driver's license. Deferred action is issued for two-year renewable periods.

"DACAmended" students with an SSN will be able to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Though the FAFSA cannot be used to get federal aid, many colleges require a completed FAFSA for financial aid consideration.

To see if you meet DACA requirements, and to learn more about the application process, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

## Resources

### Local Immigrant Services

- HIAS Pennsylvania  
[www.hiaspa.org](http://www.hiaspa.org)
- Junots  
[www.vamosjuntos.org](http://www.vamosjuntos.org)
- Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians  
[www.welcomingcenter.org](http://www.welcomingcenter.org)
- Esperanza Immigration Legal Services  
[www.esperanza.us](http://www.esperanza.us)

### National Immigrant Services

- National Immigrant Law Center  
[www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)

### Scholarship Resources

- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Opportunity Directory  
[www.chcinextopp.net](http://www.chcinextopp.net)
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund  
[www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)
- MALDEF Scholarship List  
<http://www.maldef.org/leadership/>

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### **PhillyGoes2College**

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