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SCHOLARSHIPS a-Z

Visit our Website: http://scholarshipsaz.org/

Resource Guide

for Students regardless of Immigration Status

updated 8/7/13

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Who is an Undocumented Student?

There are two categories to describe undocumented students:

(1) a foreign national who entered the United States without inspection or with fraudulent documents; or
(2) a foreign national who entered legally as a nonimmigrant but then violated the terms of his or her status and remained in the United States without authorization
(*defined by the National Immigration Law Center*)

Most college-bound undocumented students
- have lived in the United States most of their lives
- have come to the U.S. with parents at a young age
- have learned English and think of themselves as American
- have attended elementary, middle, and high school in the U.S.
- have excelled academically in high school and want to pursue a college education
- currently lack a way to become legal residents or citizens in the U.S.

***Source**: Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)

The Undocumented Population*

There are approximately *11.1 million* undocumented immigrants of all ages living in the United States (Passel and Cohn, 2011). Of those, approximately *1 million* are believed to be undocumented children under the age of 18 (Passel and Cohn, 2011). Each year an estimated *65,000* undocumented students graduate and overcome the difficulties of their high school education. According to the Pew Hispanic Center report there are only *7,000 – 13,000* estimated undocumented students believed to be enrolled in college systems throughout the United States while many more are left to dream about what could have been. The Southwest is still the region with the largest number of undocumented students. With the largest estimated percentage of undocumented immigrant students living in California (40%), it is believed that only *3,500 – 5,000* of these students may be enrolled in California's colleges and universities. Not far behind are fast and growing states like Arizona, Texas, Florida, and Illinois that are inheriting large California Latino numbers.

***Sources**: Pew Hispanic Center, Urban Institute and the U.S Census Bureau Population Estimates.

Financial Challenges that Undocumented Students Face in Pursuing a College Education
-Cannot qualify for federal or state-based financial aid, including grants, work study jobs, and loan programs.
-Cost of full-time enrollment as a college student: $15,000 - $40,000 per year*.
-Costs without financial aid can often be prohibitive for undocumented students and their families.

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*__Source__: The College Board.

How can counselors and educators work with undocumented youth?

Source: Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)

1. Building Relationships with Undocumented Students at an Individual Level

Importance of individual meetings



- If possible, meet individually with undocumented students and their families.
- Discuss in detail the complexities surrounding the student's college application process.

Most important things to tell undocumented students

State explicitly that students who are not citizens or permanent residents **CAN** go to college. It will require some extra effort to guide students through the process. Here are some suggested tips:

- Encourage students not to give up.
- Be courageous. Under 1982 Supreme Court case Plyler v. Doe, all students regardless of immigration status have the right to an education.
- On behalf of students, challenge current scholarship requirements that ask for SSN. Ask scholarship committees if a student ID number can suffice to meet general requirements.
- Start database with contact information of potential supporters and scholarship funders.
- Network with community and other college counselors to share resources.
- Stay informed on current and upcoming state and federal legislation.
- Be honest with students that SOME options will NOT be available to them. For example:
    - Limited financial aid
    - Unable to apply for FAFSA
        - You may fill out a paper FAFSA by requesting the form through a phone call at either 1-800-433-3243 or 319-337-5665
        - Never mail it to the government or complete it online if you are undocumented
    - Cannot receive federal or state aid in the forms of loans, grants, and work study
    - Private colleges will often consider students as international students and be "need aware"
    - Students will need to focus on finding funds from private sources (private college grants and scholarships)

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Focus on Four-Year Plan

- Help students plan for the cost of the entire 4-5 years of college.
- Walk through total costs related to school: tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation.
- Walk through several calculations and scenarios.
- Make a college decision based on what is a viable solution for student and his/her family.

Outreach to undocumented student groups

- Encourage students to contact other undocumented students at colleges they are considering (e.g., RISE at UC Berkeley, SIN at UC Santa Cruz, SAHE at San Jose State University, IDEAS at UCLA, etc.).

2. Helping undocumented students plan for college

- Do not ask undocumented students to self-identify. Make sure information is readily available to all students.
- Undocumented students may not know they are undocumented, or they may not label themselves as undocumented.
- Remember, undocumented students come from many different countries/continents (they are not only Latino students). Do not make assumptions.
- If families are present, make sure to have a student or staff person who can translate information.

Creating a college list



- Undocumented students with significant financial need should consider all options including attending community/2-year colleges first and then transferring to a four-year to save money (many bright, talented, and ambitious students choose this option!)
- Require undocumented students to apply to local colleges, if only as a backup.
- The cheapest four-year option will often be living at home and commuting to school.
- If students have family members that live in other parts of the state/country, they may be able to attend nearby schools and live off-campus for less money.
- If students are very strong academically, they can apply to private schools that have more “friendly” undocumented student policies.
- Remember: Results are varied and unpredictable with private schools.

Individually Contacting Private Colleges

- Contact private schools individually to find out their policies towards undocumented

students.
    - Admission offices may be helpful. Often the Multicultural Student Representatives and/or International Student Representatives will be familiar with issues related to undocumented students.
    - Financial aid offices are usually more helpful. Speak to a financial aid director or counselor directly.
- Mention that you are currently working with an undocumented student who is very interested in their school specifically.
- Often you will have to speak with several different people within one school before getting the right information.

Sample questions to ask private schools

1. Do you offer any institutional scholarships for undocumented students?
2. What about private scholarships?
3. If so, what are the names of these scholarships and how much money do they provide?
4. If yes, are these scholarships only for incoming freshman?
5. Do you have any for transfer students?
6. What is the application process like for these scholarships (e.g., deadlines, essays, letters of recommendation)?
7. Do you require that the student submit a FAFSA to your office?
8. Are there certain qualifications needed to apply for these scholarships (e.g., GPA, SAT/ACT scores or community service requirements)?
9. Are these scholarships good for the entire time the student is at your school?
10. What if it takes them 5 years to graduate?
11. What does the student need to do to keep the scholarship?
12. Can they lose the scholarship money if they get poor grades?
13. Is there a website or brochure outlining more information about these scholarships?
14. How will the student know if they are awarded one of these scholarships?
15. Anything else we should know when helping undocumented students apply to your school?

Shannon Noonan, College Counselor at UCSF EAOP Center for Science & Education Opportunity, is compiling information about private schools' policies towards undocumented students. Contact her for more info. Shannon's email is Shannon.noonan@ucsf.edu.

Federal Education and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student records at educational institutions, including colleges and universities. These protections are the same for ALL public as well as private institutions.

3. Assisting Students in creating Financial Options



Scholarships

- Strongly encourage students to apply to every single scholarship they

can.

- Find as many scholarships as possible (especially local ones) that do not require citizenship, and encourage students to put A LOT of time and energy into these applications.
- Research and apply to scholarships EARLY – in the fall!
- Make sure students are very explicit in talking about their financial need.
- Call scholarship funds to figure out their attitudes/policies towards undocumented students. Knowing scholarship funds' attitudes can help students figure out how they should address their immigration status in their application.
- If scholarships require SSN, make sure this is a requirement (i.e. students must be citizens or permanent residents). Scholarship funds do NOT need to list students' SSN for tax purposes.

Long-term Savings – Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

- Undocumented students are eligible for matched savings programs, or Individual Development Accounts (IDA)
- IDAs allow students to get $2 for every $1 they save. So if they save $2,000, then they get a total of $4,000.
- IDAs also offer/require students to complete financial management courses.

Jobs

- Encourage students to work and earn some money. Many students do babysitting and other work.
- If possible, discourage anyone from using a fake SSN, as this will be considered fraud and could hurt them if they ever have the option to apply for citizenship.
- Act as advocates/allies for students by calling potential employers to find out their employment requirements/procedures.
- Encourage students who fulfill the eligibilities to apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which would grant work authorization.

4. Miscellaneous

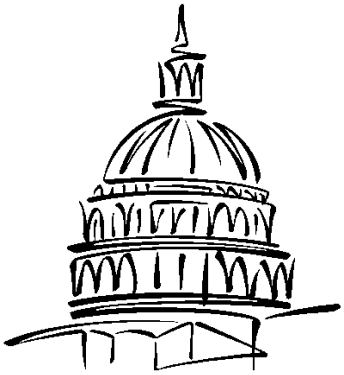
- There is help for students applying to graduate school. Check out the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers (IRT). They offer amazing financial aid and support to minority students, regardless of citizenship or residency, who want to pursue graduate studies and ultimately assume faculty positions in higher education.
- Many people – elected officials, university chancellors, etc. -- are speaking out publicly in support of undocumented students. Make sure they know you support their efforts!

Help with Immigration Process

- Make sure to speak with student's family FIRST if he or she discloses his/her immigration status to you and find out about the student's current standing. Find out if

student is ALREADY in a process to legalize.
- See if there are any options for students to apply for citizenship.
- Refer them to some of the trusted local legal services and warn them about the dangers of using “notarios.”

How has Federal Legislation Affected Undocumented Students



1974: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Any information that a student shares with a college or university is protected by this Act. (www.ed.gov)

1982: Plyler V. Doe

The U.S. Supreme Court invalidated a Texas law authorizing school districts to bar undocumented students from public elementary and secondary schools. The court noted that the statute imposed a “lifetime hardship on a discrete class of children not accountable for their disabling status.” The case did not explicitly address the question of postsecondary education; however, Legislative Counsel has suggested that Plyler v. Doe would not apply to postsecondary education. Elementary and secondary education (K –12) is a fundamental and protected right. All children, including undocumented children, can attend any public elementary and secondary school free of charge. (www.findlaw.com)

1996: Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA)

IIRIRA prohibits undocumented immigrants from accessing any postsecondary education benefits unless a U.S. citizen or national is eligible for the same benefit. For example, any state that provides in-state tuition to undocumented students must also provide in-state tuition to out-of-state residents (both permanent residents and citizens). (www.uscis.gov)

2009: The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors or DREAM Act has been proposed in federal and state government multiple times. While there have been several variations of the law, the goal of the DREAM Act has been to increase higher education opportunities for undocumented students. Versions of the law have proposed allowing a path to legal residency based on students’ enrollment in college, the military, or community service work and making

financial aid programs (such as loans and limited work study) available to undocumented students. (www.nilc.org)

2012: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA provides administrative relief to qualifying undocumented immigrant young adults who meet specific requirements including age, length of residency in U.S., education degree, and no criminal background. All approved applicants can receive a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) employment authorization document (work permit) and freedom from fear of being deported for two years. The documents are renewable every two years so long as the DACA policy is not revoked. (www.uscis.gov)

2013: Senate Immigration Reform Bill - *Title II, specifically the DREAM section*

Title II of the Senate Immigration Reform Bill creates a new status called "Registered Provisional Status" (RPI) in order to provide a 13-years pathway to citizenship to immigrants who meet the eligibility criteria. Title II of the senate bill also provides a quicker 5-year road to permanent residence and citizenship specifically for DREAMers. For more details please review the National Immigration Law Center's *Analysis of Senate Immigration Reform Bill - Title II: Immigrant Visas*. (Source: http://www.nilc.org/)
(Note: Details of the bill may change depending on the impending House Immigration Reform Bill)

What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?

***USCIS provides specific eligibility requirements and documents needed to apply for DACA*. Read more.**

The following questions and answers are from the link:
http://immigrationequality.org/issues/immigration-basics/daca/

- If I am granted deferred action, will I be entitled to work?
  - Every individual who is granted deferred action will be lawfully permitted to work. In order to be permitted to work, you must include an application for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) in your application, which, when granted, will be valid for a period of two years and may be renewed. You must wait until the EAD is issued prior to accepting employment.
- If I am granted deferred action, can I travel outside the United States?
  - You can only travel outside the U.S. if you apply for, pay the fee ($360) and receive advanced parole after being granted deferred action and before traveling. Generally advanced parole is only granted for humanitarian reasons, educational, or employment reasons. If you leave the U.S. without advanced parole being granted or before a decision has been made on your deferred action application, you will not be permitted back into the United States.

- Is there any risk in applying for deferred action?
    - **Yes**, you should only apply after consulting with a qualified attorney. If you are here unlawfully and USCIS or ICE finds that you do not meet the criteria for deferred action, you may be placed in removal proceedings. Additionally, even if you are granted deferred action, the status is completely discretionary and can be revoked in the future.

How does having Deferred Action (work permit) affect your education in Arizona?
Pima Community College (PCC) and Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) colleges offer in-state tuition to undocumented students. Scholarships A-Z, with the support of the Pima County Interfaith Council (PCIC), and Arizona DREAMers and their parents, actively advocated to get in-state tuition for Arizona undocumented students with a work permit from DACA at PCC. As a result, the PCC Board of Governors voted in favor of in-state tuition discounts for DACA students in February 27, 2013. PCC & MCCCD colleges now acknowledges DACA work permit as evidence of in-state residency status for students.

DACA @ Pima Community College (click on links below)
Information on DACA
Residency requirements and forms

DACA @ MCCCD colleges
Residency information

How has State Legislation Affected Undocumented Students?

Background

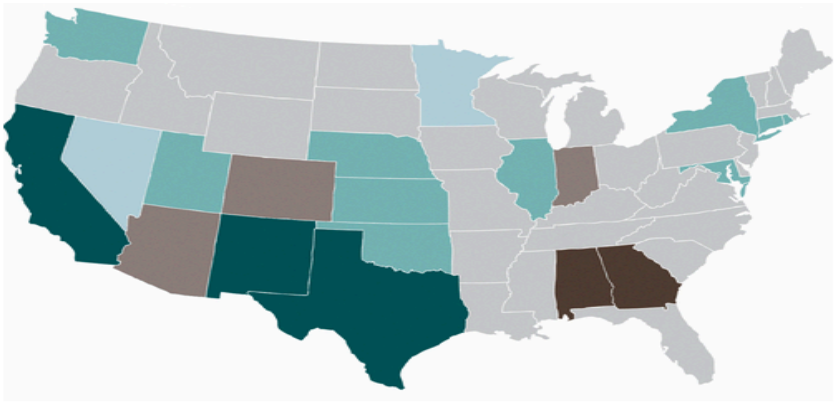
Many people believe that as immigration to the United States increases, students will be entering the education pipeline. Some of these newly arrived students may be undocumented immigrants, and have been denied the full rights of American citizenship, including educational benefits, like in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. In an effort to aid undocumented immigrants who cannot afford the cost of postsecondary education, *many states have proposed legislation that offers in-state tuition to this new pool of potential students*.

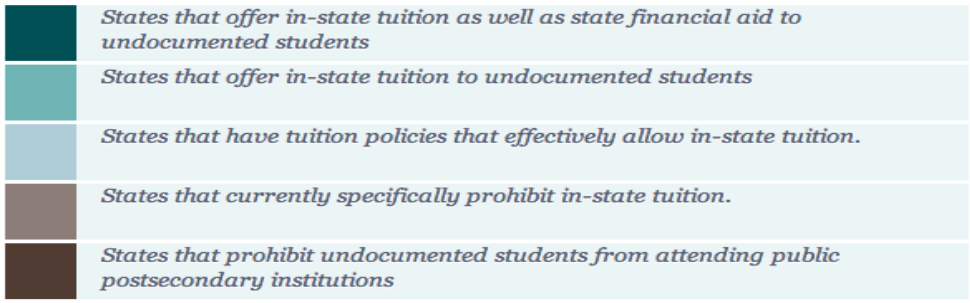
Supporters	Critics
-Societal Benefits: -increased earnings and taxes -lower crime and poverty rates -Historical perspective: -Unfair to deny opportunity to the most recent generation of undocumented students	-Unfair: -Many American citizens cannot afford to attend postsecondary education.

Title: Different opinions on in-state tuition legislation

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While some states have passed legislation that extends in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants, others have proposed laws that restrict the granting of in-state tuition to these same immigrants. The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) provided a 2013 summary of state legislation regarding in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.





How many states have passed legislation *allowing* undocumented students to receive in-state tuition?

As of July 2013, **16 states** have provisions allowing in-state tuition rates for undocumented students. Fourteen states—California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington— provide these provisions through state legislation. Two states—Oklahoma and Rhode Island— allow in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through Board of Regents decisions. (www.ncsl.org)

How many states have passed legislation *restricting* undocumented immigrants from receiving in-state tuition?

As of July 2013, three states--**Arizona**, **Georgia**, and **Indiana--**prohibit in-state tuition for undocumented students.

"In 2006, Arizona citizens passed Proposition 300, which prohibits undocumented students from qualifying for in-state tuition rates and any type of state financial aid. In 2008, the state legislatures in Colorado and Georgia passed bills that ban undocumented students from

receiving in-state tuition rates. In 2013, Colorado repealed the ban and passed legislation allowing for in-state tuition rates for undocumented students. Also in 2008, **South Carolina**, in legislation titled the "Illegal Immigration Reform Act", prohibited undocumented students from enrolling in its state colleges or universities. In 2011, Indiana enacted HB 1402 requiring that students be lawfully present to receive in-state tuition benefits. **Alabama** joined South Carolina when a law was enacted in June 2011 preventing undocumented students from enrolling in public postsecondary institutions." (www.ncsl.org)

What are the most common requirements for undocumented students to receive in-state tuition?

- Attend a state high school for two to four years
- Complete a high school diploma or GED in the state
- File an affidavit stating intent to become a permanent U.S. citizen.

What are current Arizona Laws that affect Undocumented Students?



Proposition 300

Proposition 300 was voted and approved by voters in 2006. It is a state law that requires all students who cannot provide sufficient evidence as legal residents of the state to pay nonresident tuition therefore classified as out-of-state residents for college tuition purposes. It forbids students from receiving any state financial assistance of any kind. (www.az.gov)

Arizona S.B. 1070

Arizona SB 1070 was passed in 2010 by current Arizona state Governor Jan Brewer, and was considered the broadest and strictest anti-immigration policy at the time of passage. SB 1070 requires everyone to carry the required documents at all times and requires state authorities to inquire about an individual's immigration status during an arrest. SB 1070 legitimizes State authorities to arrest people when there is "reasonable suspicion" that one is undocumented. Based in the ideology of "attrition through enforcement", the legislation has been widely criticized because of its xenophobic origins and encouragement of racial profiling.

Arizona's SB 1070 has torn many immigrant families apart. Many families have returned to their home countries once SB 1070 passed. The law enforcement has speedily detained and deported many immigrants, thereby breaking family aparts. Due to the legislation, many undocumented immigrants constantly live in fear, knowing the possibility of being deported any time.

How can I finance my college education?

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Private Colleges and Universities

Some private colleges and universities classify undocumented students as international students and consider their financial situation in determining admissions. In this process, undocumented students compete with students from every country in the world for a handful of enrollment slots. For these schools, undocumented students' ability to fund their entire four years of college is considered in admissions decisions. The cost of attending a private college for four years ranges from $80,000 - $200,000 depending on the institution of their choice. Because of these policies, thousands of qualified and competitive undocumented students are denied admission to private colleges every year.

Possible sources of financial assistance

- Grants & Scholarships (do not need to pay back)
- Work-study (job opportunity to earn money) is open to those who qualify for federal aid.
- Loans (money borrowed that *must* be repaid)
- Undocumented students can borrow money but will require a legal co-signer with a credit line to borrow funds. You may want to shop around and ask questions first.
- Use creative ways to fundraise (e.g., raffles, donations, lunch or dinner benefit)
- Apply for scholarships that do not require U.S. citizenship or residency.
- Evaluate your personal situation and make decisions based on your realistic needs.
- Use technology to your advantage and ask for donations (e.g., Facebook) Remember, anything you post on these and other social networking sites is *public* information.

If I am undocumented, can I apply for financial aid?

- As an undocumented student in the United States, no one is eligible for federal aid under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 sec 505.
- As an undocumented student in the state of Arizona, no one is eligible for state funds under Proposition 300.
- However, some private scholarships and grants are available. Speak to your high school counselor about what's available and review the list of scholarships listed on www.scholarshipsaz.org and www.maldef.org.
- If you or your parents filed an application with INS and are in the process of obtaining residency, you may be eligible to receive resident fee status and may also be eligible to receive federal financial aid. Please speak to a licensed immigration attorney for further details.

What are some tips for Undocumented Students?

NOTE: If you are a DACA recipient, these tips can still be helpful, but you may have additional options. Please refer to our section on DACA.



- Find out if it is possible for you to get a Social Security

number by contacting a certified immigration lawyer.

- Get to know your high school counselor early. Let them know how they can help you. Visit them often and consider all scholarships available to you.
- Familiarize yourself on state laws affecting individuals in your situation.
- Consider private colleges. They are more likely to offer money to qualified candidates if they meet entrance requirements.
- Think about where you are going to college; talk with your contacts at that college. This is why it is important to collect business cards. Follow through. Email them. Ask counselors at college fairs or high school visits about their school policies or ask about other schools or contacts they may have or recommend.
- Check scholarship lists' databases for any scholarships that do not require legal residency or citizenship (e.g., www.scholarshipsaz.org, www.maldef.org, www.salef.org, www.fastweb.com, www.latinocollegedollars.org).
- Scholarship providers have their own eligibility requirements. Make sure to obtain current information by contacting each provider directly.
- Scholarship funds are limited and many are only offered on a one-time basis. You must continue applying every year.
- Begin looking for scholarships as early as possible. Search within your school, school district and local community first; then expand from there.
- Think about individuals you might ask to sponsor or support you in college. This may include relatives, teachers, friends, neighbors, local businesses or the employers of your parents. If you need help writing a formal letter requesting help, ask. Writing skills will become indispensable. Hence, challenging yourself with AP, IB, Honors English if possible would be a great idea. Also utilize any outside tutoring services or programs that can help you sharpen your grammatical skills.
- Consider ways you might earn money that do not require a SSN (e.g., tutoring, yard work, babysitting, making jewelry)
- Get yourself a Tax Identification Number (TIN) and begin paying taxes to create a positive paper trail that can and will help you in the long run when adjusting your status.
- If possible, live at home. (This will save you lots of money on room and board expenses.)
- Network. Join student groups, get to know community supporters, and get involved with college organizations or groups that can help you. Get connected. You will need these contacts and experiences for your resume, scholarship applications, and college admission essays.
- Do not be afraid to ask for donations from former high school teachers or current professors. If you receive a donation, be sure to write them a Thank You note.
- Surround yourself with others who are supportive of your situation, especially other undocumented students because they understand the struggles
- Keep a copy of a generic personal statement that can be easily altered to fit several different scholarship applications. See "personal statement" writing tips in the back of resource guide.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions.
- Do your research.
- Help others and spread knowledge by becoming proactive.
- Document your findings of scholarships, resources, or contacts to share with others.

- Identify and seek out mentors.

How do I apply for scholarships?

The following link provides information about how to apply to scholarships.
http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/collateral/Applying_for_Scholarships.pdf

Note: This link provides information and tips on how to organize your application, how to compose the essay, how to ask for recommendation letters, and how to write a personal statement.

What does a sample scholarship essay look like?
http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/collateral/Sample_Scholarship_Essays.pdf

The Link to ScholarshipA-Z's Scholarship List:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AjtiAmz4dHJ3dDFhTDZ0SjJfZDZ4QWh5cUdqOXFodFE#gid=4



What documents do you need to apply for scholarships?

1-**Personal statement** – strong, clear, positive essay, which includes information on student's experiences and background, current activities and challenges, plus information regarding goals and aspirations integrated with the sponsoring scholarship organization's mission statement. Save a copy of all personal statement drafts, which can be adapted for various applications.

2-**Letters of recommendation** – should highlight strengths, abilities, goals, personality and indicate financial need (if appropriate) and potential for success. If your recommender addresses your letter as "To Whom It May Concern," you may request a copy, which can be used for more than one application. Make sure that the letter is written to the right organization before using it again.

3-**UNOFFICIAL Transcripts** – document that lists all of your classes and grades. YOU can usually access these for free. Check with your admissions office, counselor, or academic advisor to get a copy if you cannot print one out. Each student should keep a copy of the unofficial transcript in the event that an unofficial transcript is acceptable.*

4-**OFFICIAL Transcripts** - document that lists all of your classes and grades with an official seal of the school/college. It should be sealed in an envelope by the school so it remains official.**

Most scholarships will require this document. Do not wait until the last minute to request this from your counselor. (These transcripts from high schools are usually free. It may cost a small fee if you are requesting it from a college. Often times you can request multiple transcripts (e.g., 10, 20) at a time. Request a bunch and you'll have them for the future)

5-**Budget** – should include a list of costs for expenses and any income. Costs include tuition, books, transportation, housing, meals, medical and personal items. Student budgets are usually available from the financial aid office of your target institution.

6- **Resume** – is a detailed list of your education, work, volunteer, and leadership experiences. This is usually a 1-page document that describes you and your skills. It will be useful when answering college or scholarship essay questions. For help creating a resume, please visit with your counselor or academic advisor.

7- **Miscellaneous** – sometimes a photo is requested. Keep a couple wallet size photos in your folder. Samples of your work (essays, poems, artwork, etc.) can also be requested for competitive awards.

8-**Copies of applications** – keep copies of all applications to colleges and scholarships so that information can be quickly revised.

Persistence pays. Meet deadlines and follow through as appropriate. The work is difficult but your reward is FREE MONEY, which will help you pay for college.

*Must be requested in writing from credentials specialist with school ID. See your counselor.
**Can be obtained from your academic advisor/counselor.

Source: Phoenix Union High School District Resource Guide

How do I apply to College?

Here is a link to an undocumented students' guide for completing college and transfer applications! *http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/collateral/UndocuTransfer%20Guide.pdf*

Here is a link to youtube channel "3 Mins for College" provided by the University of Arizona to help students apply to college!
http://www.youtube.com/user/3MinsForCollege/videos

- Talk to your high school counselor as early as possible to receive all the information you need about planning for college including college requirements, applications, entrance exams, fee waivers, cost of attendance, and available resources for undocumented students.
    - **Note:** Talking to your high school counselor may be scary, for instance, because of fear of being labeled. Some methods you can use include but are not limited to:
        - Talking to a teacher, counselor, coach, or any adult on campus whom you trust

and feel safe talking to. If you don't feel safe, don't be afraid to tell your counselor that you do not feel comfortable.
    - Taking a friend or family member with you to talk to the counselor.
    - Talking to your parents before you seek help from your counselor.
    - Approaching another adult whom you trust off campus, for instance, at volunteer work sites, church
- Talk to other undocumented students on college campuses to get advice about applying to and attending college.
- Ask to speak to the minority enrollment counselor at any college and ask them about scholarships or opportunities found on their campus. Please do not be discouraged if someone says no. You must seek the answer you wish to find, even if it takes three or four contacts on a single campus. (e.g., counselor, multicultural clubs, Early Academic Outreach Programs)
- Research scholarships and other methods to pay for college.
- Know that you have a right to higher education and it is going to take much work and dedication on your behalf. You can do it!
- Be open-minded and realistic with yourself. Life can take many turns; the point is getting there. If one doors closes, then open two more!

Community Colleges

According to the general requirements established by Arizona Community Colleges, any person who meets one of the following criteria may be granted admission:

- Is a graduate of a high school, which is accredited by a regional accrediting association as defined by the United States Office of Education or approved by a State Board of Education or any other appropriate state educational agency.
- Has a high school certificate of equivalency.
- Is 18 years of age or older and demonstrates evidence of potential success in the community college.
- Is a transfer student in good standing from another college or university.

Note that the ASSET/Accuplacer or other placement exam will be given at the respective community college campus to determine English, math, and reading placement for entering freshmen. (www.collegeboard.com)

Arizona State Universities (Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, or University of Arizona)

A student must meet the class rank, test score or GPA requirement, plus the core course competency requirements, according to the following:

Freshmen-Arizona Residents
Class Rank……Top Quarter -OR-
Composite Score……ACT 22 or SAT 1040 -OR-

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GPA (4.0 = A)……3.0* in the 16 core courses

*Arizona residents who do not meet the requirements described above but rank in the second quarter of their graduating class, have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 - 2.99 (4.0 = A), and have no more than 1 deficiency in any 2 core courses may be admitted with conditions, but it is not guaranteed. Students with a combination MATH/SCIENCE deficiency are not admissible.
http://students.asu.edu/freshman/requirements

What are the ACT & SAT?

Most colleges and universities will accept either the American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for college entrance. Students should consult college catalogs carefully for specific test requirements. Some colleges require SAT Subject Tests as well as SAT or ACT scores. The following information was provided from the Collegeboard website but material may change without notice so please revisit specific websites to confirm cost.

The American College Test (ACT)
Test Fee: $36.50 **Late Fee:** $22.00 **Ask your high school counselor if you are eligible for a fee waiver.*
Writing test is optional. Ask your preferred colleges if required. Fee = $16.00
A student taking the Writing Test would pay $52.50 total.
Test Purpose: Measures academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The test contains analytical and problem-solving exercises and is somewhat like the curriculum most college-bound students have had.
ACT Composite Score: 1-36 (average of 4 test scores)



Test Date	Registration Deadline	*(Late Fee Required)*
September 21, 2013	August 23, 2013	August 24 – September 6, 2013
October 26, 2013	September 27, 2013	September 28 – October 11, 2013
December 14, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 9 – 22, 2013
February 8, 2014	January 10, 2014	January 11 – 24, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 8 – 21, 2014

June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 10 – 23, 2014

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

SAT I:

Test Fee: $45.00 **Late Fee:** $23.00 **Ask your high school counselor if you are eligible for a fee waiver.*

Test Purpose: Measures academic aptitude in verbal and numerical reasoning, plus written expression.

SAT Reasoning Test Total: 400-1600 (sum of critical reading and mathematics scores)

Writing: 200-800 Writing scores are reported separately.

***SAT II*:**

Test Fee: $24.50/registration + $ 24.00 (language test with listening) or $13.00 (all other subject tests) **Late Fee:** $27.50

Test Purpose: demonstrates mastery of specific subjects such as English, history, mathematics, science, and foreign languages.

Note: Not all SAT II tests are offered the same dates as SAT I tests. Test dates vary depending on the subject.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	*(Late Fee Required)*
October 5, 2013	September 6, 2013	September 20, 2013
November 2, 2013	October 3, 2013	October 18, 2013
December 7, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 22, 2013
January 25, 2014	December 27, 2013	January 10, 2014
March 8, 2014	February 7, 2014	February 21, 2014
May 3, 2014	April 4, 2014	April 18, 2014
June 7, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 23, 2014

Table Title: SAT I calendar

Source: College Board & Phoenix Union High School District Resource Guide

What is the Cost of Attending College in Arizona?

Pima Community College

In-state: $65.50/ unit Out-of-state: $329/ unit

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http://www.pima.edu/paying-for-school/costs/

Maricopa County Community College District
In-state: $81.00/ unit Out-of-state: $322/ unit
http://www.maricopa.edu/publicstewardship/governance/adminregs/appendices/S-4.php

Northern Arizona University
In-state: $16,997/ year Out-of-state: $34,808/ year
http://nau.edu/tuition-and-cost/

Arizona State University
In-state: $18,382/ year Out-of-state: $32,034/ year
https://students.asu.edu/financialaid/coa/undergraduate
https://students.asu.edu/tuition

University of Arizona
In-state: $19,314/ year Out-of-state: $41,910/ year
http://www.bursar.arizona.edu/students/fees

Private Universities
In and out-of-state: Varies

Note: *All colleges will be more expensive with room and board. Save money, live at home if possible.*
Note: *The above numbers are estimates and are subject to change.*
Note: *It is best to use the website which may provide calculating tools to estimate the cost according to your circumstances.*

Each college systems has its own requirements:

- Academics
- Entrance Exams (SAT, ACT)
- GPA
- Application deadlines
- Personal essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular activities

Note: Ask for Fee Waivers to reduce the cost of applying to college.

What is a Fee Waiver?

A fee waiver provides you the opportunity to submit your application for review without having to pay the application fee of the institution and the processing of your application. Talk to your high school counselor or the college of your choice for more information.

Note: You are most likely eligible for a fee waiver if you qualify for free or reduced lunch at your high

school. Keep in mind that college applications are expensive.

What are some warnings?

Legal Warnings

- Do not make up a SSN to access FAFSA based funding or full/part-time work. Making up a SSN is considered a federal crime.
- Utilizing any public benefits while undocumented can be deemed grounds for automatic deportation and prosecution the day you are able to adjust your immigration status.
- A TIN (Tax Identification Number) is not a Social Security Number and should never be used for college admissions.

Warnings about Scams

Students and parents are being scammed if a company or scholarship source promotes its offerings with:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed." No one can guarantee anything…this is a lie.
- "You cannot get this information anywhere else." Legitimate scholarship information is available through public sources.
- "I need your credit card or bank account number for this scholarship." This is a common method to get money out of parents' or students' accounts in the future without permission. Be careful!
- "We will do all the work." The student still has to fill out applications, write essays, and attend to the requirements. It is not possible for anyone else to do the work.
- "The scholarship will cost money." Always use free references. Scholarships should not require the purchase of products or services.
- "We save money by not having an address." Legitimate scholarship sources have contact information and a physical address.
- "Come to [event] on Sunday afternoon."……Be wary that these free seminars or interviews may be sales pitches for expensive and unnecessary products or services.
- Finally, check with your school counselor if you have any questions about information you have received.

What rights do I have, and how can I advocate my rights?

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Rights of an Undocumented Student

- You cannot be denied admission to a public Arizona college or university based on your immigration status.
- Federal law protects personally identifiable student education records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is applicable to all schools receiving federal funds.

What can I do - Arizona?

- Get involved!
- There are many student organizations that are working to pass legislation and advocate on behalf of other students. For example:
  - AZ Dream Act Coalition
  - United We Dream
  - Dream Activist
- Create your own student support group in your school if one does not already exist.
- Write letters or film videos to share your testimonies with others.
- Write or call your Senators & Representatives
  - Arizona State Legislature - Senate & House
  - U.S. Senators & U.S. House of Representatives

Note: *The following is a list of U.S. senators and U.S. House of Representatives of Arizona State:*

Senator John McCain (AZ)
2201 East Camelback Rd. Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Main: (602) 952-2410
Fax: (602) 952-8702
www.mccain.senate.gov

Senator Jeff Flake (AZ)
2200 East Camelback Rd. Suite 120
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Main: (602) 840-1891
Fax: (602) 840-4848
http://www.flake.senate.gov

Representative Anna Kirkpatrick
211 North Florence St. Suite 1
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
Main: (520) 316-0839
Fax: (520) 316-0842
www.kirkpatrick.house.gov

Representative Ron Barber
77 Calle Portal, Suite B-160
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
Main: (520) 459-3115
Fax: (520) 459-5419
www.barber.house.gov

Representative Raul Grijalva
738 North 5th Ave. Suite 110
Tucson, AZ 85705
Main: (520) 622-6788
Fax: (520) 622-0198
www.grijalva.house.gov

Representative Paul Gosar
122 N. Cortez Street, Suite 104
Prescott, AZ 86301
Main: (928) 445-1683
www.gosar.house.gov

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Representative Matt Salmon
207 North Gilbert Rd. Suite 209
Gilbert, AZ 85234
Main: (480) 699-8239
Fax: (480) 699-4730
www.salmon.house.gov

Representative Ed Pastor
411 North Central Ave. Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Main: (602) 256-0551
Fax: (602) 257-9103

Representative Kyrsten Sinema
2944 N. 44th St. Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Main: (602) 956-2285
www.sinema.house.gov

Representative David Schweikert
10603 North Hayden Rd, Ste 108
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Main: (480) 946-2411
Fax: (480) 946-2446
www.schweikert.house.gov

Representative Trent Franks
7121 West Bell Rd. Suite 200
Glendale, AZ 85308
Main: (623) 776-7911
Fax: (623) 776-7832

Governor Jan Brewer
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Main: (602) 542-4331
Fax: (602) 542-1381
www.azgovernor.gov

What are some organizations that are historically friendly to undocumented students?

Chicana/Latina Foundation
1419 Burlingame Ave, Suite W2.
Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 373-1083
www.chicanalatina.org

Chicano/Latina Faculty and Staff Association
at Arizona State Univ., California State Univ. - Fullerton, San Jose State Univ., etc.

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Foundation (SHPE Foundation)
1444 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 373-7930
http://www.shpefoundation.org/

Immigration Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
1663 Mission St., Suite 602
San Francisco, CA 94103

California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
(850) 756-1111
http://www.calpoly.edu/

Latino Medical Student Association
http://lmsa.net/

TELACU Education Foundation
5400 E Olympic Blvd. Third Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 721-1655
http://telacu.com/site/en/home/education.html

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
634 S. Spring St., 11th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90014

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(415) 255-9499
www.ilrc.org

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
2533 W. 3rd St., Suite 101
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 353-1333
www.chirla.org

Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
2845 W. 7th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-7800
www.carecen-la.org

Salvadoran American Leadership & Educational Fund (MALDEF)
1625 W. Olympic Blvd, Suite 718
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 480-1052
www.salef.org

Korean Resource Center
900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(323) 937-3718
www.krcla.org

EDUCAMEXUS
220 W. 6th St.
University Services Annex Bldg
Room A108
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 626-0115
www.educamexus.org

National Immigration Law Center
3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 2850
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 639-3900
www.nilc.org

(213) 977-7500
www.maldef.org

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(323) 937-3703
www.nakasec.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice
1145 Wilshire Blvd. 2nd Flr.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 977-7500
www.apalc.org

Center for Community Change
1536 U St NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 339-9300
http://www.communitychange.org/

Path to Scholarships
June McBride
P.O. Box 536, Oakland, FL 34760
407-877-9630
www.needcollegemoney.com

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
19th Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 833-6130
www.lulac.org

Fundación México
2030 E. Broadway Blvd, Suite 208
Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 791-0175
www.fundacionmexico.org

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Pew Hispanic Center
1615 L Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036-5610
(202) 419-3600
www.pewhispanic.org

Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)
University of Arizona
P.O Box 210300
Tucson, AZ 85721-0300
(520) 621-7761
www.conahec.org

Public Counsel
610 S. Ardmore Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-2977
www.publiccounsel.org

Arizona Association of Chicanos for Higher Education (AACHE)
www.aache.org

Tucson Hispanic Coalition
P.O. Box 40066
Tucson, AZ 85717-0066
www.tucsonhispaniccoalition.org

Coalición de Derechos Humanos
631 S. 6th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 770 1373
http://www.derechoshumanosaz.net/

Urban Institute
2100 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 833-7200
www.urban.org

Preparing for College 101

How to prepare

Planning for college should begin as early as the eighth grade because that is when you need to decide whether or not you are going to follow a college preparatory track. A college preparatory track should include as a minimum:

- 4 years of English and Literature
- 3-4 years of Math (including advanced algebra and trigonometry)
- 2-3 years of Foreign Language
- 2-4 years of Laboratory Science
- 2 years of History and Social Science
- 3 years of Electives

---

16 year-long academic subjects

This schedule demands that you take at least 4 college preparatory classes in every year of

high school, still leaving room for you to take additional electives in music, art, yearbook, etc. If you are interested in engineering, math, science or computers, take all the math and science you can. If your strengths are history, writing, literature or the arts, take extra classes in these subjects. It is always a good idea to take extra foreign language courses. Your school counselor will help you plan your schedule according to your strengths and interests.

Note: The following is only a suggested list that will help guide you to a successful senior year without stressing too much about your college application.

Year-by-Year CHECKLIST!

9th Grade

- Talk with your counselor and inform them that you want to attend a 4-yr college or university and that you need to schedule college prep courses. Take algebra or geometry and a foreign language in both semesters.
- Maintain A's and B's in all your subjects.
- If needed, form a study group with friends who also plan to go to college.
- Create a Leadership Portfolio. For assistance with your portfolio please contact your counselor or www.scholarshipsaz.org. Save items such as
    - Copies of report cards
    - Diplomas and certificates
    - Awards and honors
    - A list of all school and community activities
    - A list of offices held
    - A list of your jobs (volunteer or paid)
- Begin visiting colleges or universities; scope out your competition.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs.

10th Grade

- Review your ninth and tenth grade schedules with your counselor to make sure you are taking the correct classes.
- Maintain A's and B's.
- Continue to form study groups and do your research on prospective schools.
- Update your Leadership Portfolio at the end of each semester.
- Strongly consider taking the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test). The PSAT is a practice exam for the SAT I or ACT and required for several national scholarship programs. Students often take the PSAT in 11th grade; however, extra practice during 10th grade can only help familiarize you with the exam. Register in October. The fee is $13. Ask your counselor about a fee waiver. Practice using free online resources http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html.
- Continue to visit local colleges and universities with family and friends.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs and special summer workshops and camps for music, science, engineering, writing, tutoring, filmmaking, theater, language, sports, and others.

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11th Grade

- Check with your counselor to be sure you are taking the right college prep courses needed for a selective 4-yr college or university and challenge yourself.
- Maintaining A's and B's is very important in your junior year. College counselors will be paying particular attention to these classes for rigor and performance.
- Register for the PSAT in October.
- Take the PSAT. The results will give you and your counselor an idea of your strengths and the areas you need to improve as you prepare for college admission. The fee is $13. Ask your counselor about a fee waiver. Depending on your score, you may also be eligible for national scholarships. Practice using free online resources http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html
- If you are taking Advanced Placement subjects, register for the AP exams in spring. Scoring well on these exams will enable you to earn credit for college-level courses. (University of Arizona accepts a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exams and some 3s for special courses. www.arizona.edu)
- Attend college fairs and presentations by admissions officers who visit your school and ask questions.
- Create a file on your favorite colleges and obtain information about these schools.
- Visit colleges that interest you. Try to meet with the admissions officer, academic professor in your intended program, student organizations, and athletics. Prepare questions about the school and have a transcript or list of courses you have taken since ninth grade.
- Think about retaking the SAT I or ACT tests if necessary.
- Update your Leadership Portfolio.
- From May to July be prepared to receive mail from many colleges.

Over the Summer

- Read the college mail you receive. Return reply cards to schools that interest you. They will send you viewbooks, catalogues and applications.
- Visit your "short list" colleges in person if possible.
- Prepare for the SAT I and the ACT by reading books and manuals with the testing tips and sample questions. Attend workshops on how to prepare for these entrance exams if offered at your school or ask a counselor where you can prepare.
- Begin looking for scholarships. If you are not a candidate for them at this time save a copy in a folder and revisit it your senior year. All the money you can get is great.

12th Grade

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are taking the right classes.
- Maintain A's and B's and do not get senioritis early!
- Update your Leadership Portfolio.
- Visit your short list schools again.
- Check frequently with your college counselor or career center director for information about scholarships awarded by your school, local companies and community groups.
- In early September, register for the SAT I and the ACT. Register a month or two before the test date.

- By the end of October, make a final list of the schools to which you will apply for admission.
- Make a file for each school and a checklist of the required admission items: transcripts, applications fees, recommendations, essays, test scores, etc.
- Pay special attention to deadlines.
- Apply early if you can.

6 Common Myths about College

MYTH#1
"You have to be rich to attend a private university."
Wrong! Seventy percent of the students attending private colleges receive need-based financial aid. In fact some students can qualify and attend a private university at little or no cost. Private institutions tend to have more funds available to students than public institutions.

MYTH #2
"Students should know exactly what they want to study before they apply to college."
Not necessarily. You may have to make a career decision earlier if you plan to attend a specialized college of engineering, music, etc. But most colleges and universities encourage you to take a broad range of subjects to help you decide on a field of study. At most schools you will not need to declare a major until the end of your sophomore year or early junior year.

MYTH #3
"You must find the 'perfect' college."
The perfect college probably does not exist. The best way to select the right school for you is to research three or four colleges that meet your criteria, and then visit each one.

MYTH #4
"Telling a university that you are applying for financial aid may hurt your chances for admission."
Not true! Selective colleges do not let a family's financial ability enter into the admission decision.

MYTH #5
"Admissions officers consider only grades and test scores when considering an applicant."
Selective colleges are also interested in the rigor of the subjects taken, the competitiveness of the school, and upward or downward trends in grades. Your application essay, as well as extracurricular and leadership activities, talent and personal character are also very important. A word of caution: quality over quantity is what most colleges look for.

MYTH #6
"People say that because I have no social security number I will never be able to attend college!"
No one can ever deny you access to a college education. There are private scholarships

available to help you fund your schooling if your academics are strong.

Education is a Personal Challenge…it is up to YOU!

- Read! Learn to write!
- Your education depends on you.
- Establish an educational plan early.
- Challenge yourself.
- Take as many AP/IB/ Honors classes as possible; college admission is becoming more competitive.
- Take advantage of dual enrollment programs. Take classes in local community colleges while in high school. This can save you money and time plus give you an edge over others applying to college. (Dual enrollment is free, if not less expensive for you while in high school. Ask your high school counselor for more information.)
- Be involved in your community.
- Inform and educate other students about educational opportunities for undocumented students.
- Ask questions.
- Look for guidance.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Be patient-current laws may take time to pass.
- Please remember that as an undocumented student you will need to work harder than other students.
- Contact individual colleges for application fee waivers if needed.
- Set your standards high.
- Excel in Honors/AP/IB English and Math. You will need it.

"Undocumented students need to be wise, stay motivated, be resilient, and persevere. Be future-oriented and believe that everything will be okay. It's just a matter of time."

–Undocumented College Student

Now What?

Employment

If you meet the eligibility requirements of a DACA work permit, apply as soon as possible so that you can lawfully work in the United States. Some undocumented students who are in the legalization process are eligible for a U.S. work permit. Check with your attorney for more information. This permit may be adequate for you to work legally. There also may be opportunities to start your legalization process through employer sponsorship under rigorous requirements otherwise known as H1B1 Visas. For more information, consult a licensed immigration attorney. Violating the terms of your visa status may be enough to prohibit you from future adjustment of your status. Sometimes, entrepreneurship is also an option. For example, you may be able to apply for a business license and start your own business. (www.e4fc.org)

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Internships/ Fellowships

Internships are often made available to high school students, college students, and/or recent graduates interested in receiving supervised practical training in their field or profession of interest. Internships are a great way to get "real world" experience while applying to graduate/ professional school. In doing so, you will get work experience and/or community service experience. Internships are also a great way to meet people and develop networks that may help you while you are in college, and after you graduate and are seeking employment. Fellowships refer to money granted by a university, foundation, or other agency for advanced study or research. Fellowships are often financial grants made to a fellow in a college or university. Fellowships can be viewed as paid internships, for which some undocumented students may be eligible. (www.e4fc.org)

Research

Working on your own research with faculty members at a college or university is one way to get research experience and possibly earn money. Sometimes undocumented students may be eligible to receive a "stipend" for their contributions. A stipend is a sum of money allotted on a regular basis, such as a salary for services rendered or an allowance for books, etc. Undocumented students may be eligible for stipends if the source of funding is tax exempt and is not tied to federal or state funds. If it comes directly from a public college or university's funds, undocumented students are not eligible. Remember, government funds are not available to undocumented students. (www.e4fc.org)

Networking

If you want to increase your opportunities for employment upon graduation, networking with college/university staff members and faculty while you are in college is extremely important. You should also try to connect with local professionals in your field of study to determine the types of job opportunities that may be available to you after college. Other students on your college campus may also be able to provide you with this type of information or connect you with people who can help. The size and quality of your academic/professional network will largely determine your access to opportunities and information while in college and when you begin exploring potential careers. Remember, it is not always what you know but whom you know that counts. (www.e4fc.org)

Legal Advice

Before you graduate please seek the legal advice of a certified immigration lawyer. See if there exists a probability of adjusting your status legally. Marriage should not be your first option. Derived citizenship from this method has become more difficult and could actually jeopardize your opportunity of legally adjusting based on certain immigration guidelines. Please seek certified legal help before assuming historical methods will work for you. (www.e4fc.org)

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APPENDIX

National Groups Led By Undocumented Young Adults

Through each national organization, you can find a local chapter.

United We Dream:
"the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation, a powerful nonpartisan network made up of 52 affiliate organizations in 25 states. We organize and advocate for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status"
info@unitedwedream.org | 1900 L St. NW Suite 900. Washington, DC 20036

The National Immigrant Youth Alliance (NIYA)
"an undocumented youth-LED network of grassroots organizations, campus-based student groups and individuals committed to achieving equality for all immigrant youth, regardless of their legal status. [They] believe that only a grassroots movement led by undocumented immigrant youth can properly address the inequities and seemingly insurmountable obstacles facing our communities." [Facebook Link]

DreamActivist
"a multicultural, migrant youth-led, social media hub for the movement to pass the DREAM Act and pursue the enactment of other forms of legislation that aim to mend the broken immigration system."
http://www.dreamactivist.org/contact-us/ | 4001 Niccolite Ct. Antioch, CA 94509

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Scholarship Resume Guide

Think of three teachers or other adults who know you well and will write a positive letter of recommendation:
1_____, 2_____, 3_____.

Some applications require that the writers of recommendations be specific kinds of individuals: a counselor, principal, and/or a certain subject area teacher. Read the scholarship application carefully so that you are confident you meet the requirements. If there are no directions regarding the writers, seek a variety. Relatives are never appropriate!

Always allow the recommendation writer as much time as possible. Two weeks is minimally acceptable in order to receive a well-written letter that honors your accomplishments and produces the desired results. Give the recommendation writer a stamped and addressed envelope unless it is to be included with the application. Waive your right to see the letter before mailing if this option is available.

Helpful Information for Recommenders:

STUDENT NAME
_____
School ID (if applicable)_____
Scholarship name:
_____
Due Date for recommendation:_____

Describe your family demographics, activities, and duties/responsibilities at home, and any special challenges you have overcome:
_____
__
_____
_____
____

Discuss your personal and professional goals:
_____
_____
_____
_____

Describe your most admirable qualities:
_____

_____
_____
_____

School Achievements:

Describe your college/career plans, the reasons you wish to go to college, and the reasons you wish to follow a particular career path:

_____
_____
_____
_____

List any academic awards you have received (note grade level) and the reasons you received those awards:

_____
_____
_____
_____
__

Describe leadership positions or special contributions you have made to school clubs, sports, and activities, particularly noting what you have learned about yourself (note grade level/offices held):

_____
_____
_____
_____
__

Community Activities:

Describe your contributions to community organizations and/or faith-based activities:

_____
_____
_____
_____
__

Describe work or volunteer experiences you have had. What was your unique role with those positions? What did you learn about yourself? How did you grow from these experiences?

_____
_____
_____
_____

__

Describe what you have learned from your travel experiences or from having lived elsewhere:

_____
_____
____
_____
__

Describe something special or unique about you that you would like to have mentioned in the letter. You might wish the writer to mention a specific assignment, reading, or project that you want the writer to emphasize. Explain:

_____
_____
_____
_____

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Writing the College Essay

When a college essay is required as a part of the admissions process, it is important to give serious effort to its composition. Probably no other piece of admissions criteria receives as much attention or generates as much discussion. Here is the opportunity to reveal intelligence, a sense of humor, maturity, sincerity, enthusiasm, and writing ability.

Areas of Evaluation - in general, colleges look for:
1. Skill in using standard written English
2. Depth of insight as reflected in content, substance and ability to reflect true feelings or opinions about a subject
3. Creativity and uniqueness evidencing fresh and original viewpoints. *Plagiarism is always and absolutely unacceptable.*

Essay Directions - be careful to follow the directions, which may be one or more of the following:
1. Discuss something which has significantly contributed to personal growth.
2. Assess uniqueness as an individual; tell something not learned from other application information.
3. Address particular opinions or feelings on a specific topic.
4. Reflect on goals and aspirations and how an education received at that college will fulfill those.

Tips for Composing the Essay - using these will help develop an essay, which conveys those unique personal qualifications.
1. Do NOT wait until the last minute to write. This is very obvious!

2. Make lists of personal qualities (particularly those applicable to this college), aspirations and goals, activities, honors and awards, personal or academic challenges, persons or course(s) which have been influential in determining career goals or aspirations, and any specific strengths of the college that will be beneficial. In other words, why are the student and the college a good match for each other?

3. Write a draft, making sure to address the particular directions for discussion.

4. Put the draft aside for 24 hours and read again.

5. Make corrections in sentence construction, grammar, punctuation and spelling. Reading the essay aloud will help determine parts that do not flow smoothly or make sense.

6. Ask a trusted friend or teacher to read and evaluate the paper.

7. Rewrite and revise. Put the essay aside again and repeat the process.

8. Type and save. Proofread for any errors. Make it look as perfect as possible.

9. Save the computer copy in a place of access.

10. Follow instructions for mailing the essay and application package and do so on time!

Source: http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html

Sample Essay Questions from Colleges and Universities

Some colleges and universities either require essays as part of the application package OR allow students to submit other information such as an art project or a research paper. The following is a compilation of essay topics used by some colleges. These are presented only as samples of the kinds of questions you may be asked to address.

* Discuss a person, other than a member of your family, who has influenced you.

*What particular book, play, poem, film, dance performance, musical composition or piece of visual art has affected you deeply in the past three years? Describe your reaction.

*Share with us your concept of an ideal education. Feel free to be as inventive and wide-ranging as you like and to include examples from personal experiences.

*Imagine that you are the editor of a major national news magazine. What would you choose as the cover story for the January, 2025 issue? Why did you make this choice? What would be the essence of this story?

*If you could automatically and irrevocably change one fact or facet in the development of human history, what would that change be? Why did you make this choice?

*What distinguishes you from other applicants? You may wish to write about your experiences, achievements, and goals. You might, for example, discuss an important life experience and what you learned from it. Describe unusual circumstances, challenges, or hardships you have faced.

*If you had only $10 to spend on a day's adventure, where would you go, what would you do, and with whom?

*What experience changed your life immeasurably? Why?

*Discuss the academic experience that has meant the most to you (course, project, paper, event).

*Describe a scientific problem, research problem, or academic issue in any field of study which

you would like to pursue in college or later.

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College Comparison Worksheet…Choosing a Campus

College Name			
Location (distance from home)			
Size			
Student Enrollment			
Physical size of campus			
Environment			
Type of school (2yr, 4yr, trade)			
School Setting (urban, rural, suburban)			
Location & Size of nearest city			
Co-ed, male, female			
Religious affiliation			
Admission Requirements			
Deadlines			
Test Required			
Average Test Scores, GPA, rank			
Special Requirements			
Notification			
Academics			
Programs of study (major offered?)			
Internships			

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Special Requirements			
Accreditation			
Student-Faculty ratio/class size			
College Expenses			
Tuition			
Room & Board			
Estimated total budget			
Application fee			
Deposit			
Financial Aid			
Deadline			
Required Forms			
% that receive aid			
Scholarships			
Housing			
Residence Halls			
Greek Life			
Food Plans			
Facilities			
Academic			
Recreational			

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Other			
Activities			
Clubs/Organizations			
Greek Life			
Athletics, Intramurals			
Study Abroad Opportunities			
Other			
Campus Visits/Orientation			
Dates			
Contact Person			
Special Opportunities (Fly Ins)			
Probable College Major			
Liberal Arts			
Interdisciplinary or general studies			
Specialized (Business, Nursing)			
Pre-Professional (Education, Law, Medical)			
Other			
Basis of College Choice			
Primarily mine			
Mine and parents			
Contrary to my preference			

Contrary to my parents preference			

SPECIAL THANKS TO…

All the families, counselors, teachers, professionals, scholars, and students that have made this resource guide possible. Your dedication and commitment to education was and is the driving force of this guide. By no means was this an individual project but a compilation of work from many advocates and organizations that constantly struggle to provide the best future for tomorrow.

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