

MARIANA HERNANDEZ QUIROS
CINTHYA SALAZAR, PHD

COLLEGE GUIDE FOR UNDOCUMENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TEXAS

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handbook!



INTRODUCTION

WELCOME!

You may be reading this guide because you are approaching the end of your high school years and you are thinking about your next steps. Oftentimes, undocumented students can feel uncertainty and doubt during this time and consider numerous options. For example, some students may seek opportunities to generate income right after high school, others consider vocational school, and others pursue a college education. While pursuing a college degree can seem overwhelming, planning ahead of time and starting your college research can go a long way. If you are an undocumented student in Texas, you are eligible to go to college. However, due to your immigration status, you might have to take some additional steps throughout the college application process, but it will be well worth it! This guide highlights the benefits of a college education, walks you through the steps of applying for college and financial aid in Texas, and gives you information on what you can do after obtaining your college degree.

WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

Opportunity to Pursue Interests and Passions

Up until now, the education you have completed has been K-12, which is a requirement of the government. However, going to college is your opportunity to choose a field of study that you are interested in, and you can someday make a career out of. Whether your interests are law, education, business, etc., there is a major for any field of study that you can think of at a college. This is your opportunity to become an expert in a field that excites you!

Increased Income Potential

According to Every Texan (2019), “the median income of an immigrant who works full time in Texas with a bachelor’s degree or higher is \$46,349 per year compared to an immigrant with just a high school diploma or equivalent, who earns \$18,137 per year.” Thus, a college degree will open doors to higher paying income opportunities that have more potential for professional development. It can lead to a better financial future for you and your family.

Make Lasting Connections

Going to college can enable you to form long-lasting friendships with individuals. Whether these individuals share the same passions as you or not, they can provide life-long emotional support. College will also give you the chance to meet faculty and staff that can mentor you and support your personal and professional development.

Potential Road to Sponsorship

People without college degrees experience more limitations when applying to jobs. In addition, jobs that do not require a college education (also known as wage jobs) do not tend to give work visas to people seeking them. The process of giving someone a work visa is also referred to as sponsorship. If you attain a college degree, you may have the opportunity to apply to bigger companies and organizations that are more willing to sponsor immigrants. With a secured sponsorship you will be able to obtain authorization to work in the United States.

TEXAS IN-STATE TUITION LAWS

OVERVIEW

There are two state bills that are helpful to know about if you are an undocumented student seeking to pursue higher education in Texas: Texas House Bill 1403 and Texas House Bill 1528. In 2001, Texas was the first state to pass a bill that would allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates, and many states followed its example.

TEXAS HOUSE BILL 1403 (ALSO KNOWN AS THE "TEXAS DREAM ACT")

- The Texas House Bill 1403 passed in 2001
- This bill “extends in-state tuition and financial aid at public universities to young Texas residents who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents but have completed high school in Texas” (Center for Public Policy Priorities, 2019)
- The bill required certain conditions for students to be able to pay in-state tuition rates in Texas. The bill required students to have:
 - Resided in Texas with a parent or guardian while attending high school in Texas
 - Graduated from a public or private high school or received a GED in Texas
 - Resided in Texas for the three years leading to high school graduation or attainment of a GED
 - Provided their institutions a signed affidavit indicating an intent to apply for permanent resident status as soon as they are able to do so

TEXAS IN-STATE TUITION LAWS

TEXAS HOUSE BILL 1528

- This bill was passed in 2005
- This bill amended House Bill 1403 so that it "applied to all individuals who had lived in Texas a significant part of their lives," as opposed to just allowing non-residents and non-citizens to apply for in-state residency through the conditions stated in HB 1403 (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2009)
- To qualify for in-state tuition, the individual must have:
 - Lived in Texas the three years leading up to high school graduation or the attainment of a GED
 - Resided in Texas the year prior to enrollment in an institution of higher education (which could overlap the 3 year period)
 - If the student is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, they have to **file an affidavit** with the school they are applying to, indicating that they will apply for Permanent Resident status of Texas once they are able to do so (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2009)
- Even if undocumented students pay in-state tuition, each university has the right to consider and categorize the student as an international or domestic student in their system. When classified as an international student, undocumented students may need to pay additional student fees

DID YOU KNOW...



The median income of an immigrant with a bachelor's degree is 156% higher than that of an immigrant with a high school diploma or equivalent (Every Texan, 2019).

TEXAS IN-STATE TUITION LAWS

WHAT IS AN AFFIDAVIT?

- An affidavit is “a written declaration upon oath made before an authorized official” (dictionary.com). The purpose of an affidavit is to formally legitimize a claim (Contracts Counsel, 2020)
- The Texas state government encourages undocumented students to apply to Texas universities as long as they indicate their intent to become a permanent resident. Thus, the affidavit associated with House Bill 1528 is for undocumented students to formally claim that they will file a petition to adjust their status as soon as they are able to

DOES MY AFFIDAVIT NEED TO BE SIGNED BY A NOTARY?

ENROLLMENT & ACADEMIC SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident

Upon completion and notarization, this affidavit should be returned to Texas A&M University, Office of Admissions, Residence Section, P.O. Box 30014, College Station, Texas 77843-3014. Any questions may directed to 979-845-1085 or residency@tamu.edu.

U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents of the U.S. DO NOT need to complete this form.

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF §

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public, on this day personally appeared known to me, who is being by me duly sworn upon his/her oath, deposed and said:

1. My name is I am years of age and have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and they are all true and correct.

2. I graduated or will graduate from a Texas high school or received my GED certificate in Texas.

3. I resided in Texas for thirty-six months leading up to graduation from high school or receiving my GED certificate.

4. I have resided or will have resided in Texas for the 12 months prior to the semester in which I will enroll in (college/university).

5. I have filed or will file an application to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity that I am able to do so.

In witness whereof, this day of

(Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Student I.D. #)

SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, on the day of to certify which witness my hand and official seal.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Reset **Print**

Yes. Notaries are commonly found in banks, post offices, and sometimes schools. Always check with your school first because they might have a notary on site. To get your affidavit notarized, you must present a government issued ID (passport from country of origin, driver's license, etc.)(DoNotPay, n.d.).

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT FOR EACH TEXAS SCHOOL I APPLY TO?

Yes, each Texas college or university will have their own version of the affidavit required per House Bill 1528. You can usually find the document on the school's financial aid office website. Although each school has their own version of the affidavit, it asks the same questions for the most part. Refer to the image to the left for an example of a Texas A&M University affidavit.

TEXAS IN-STATE TUITION LAWS

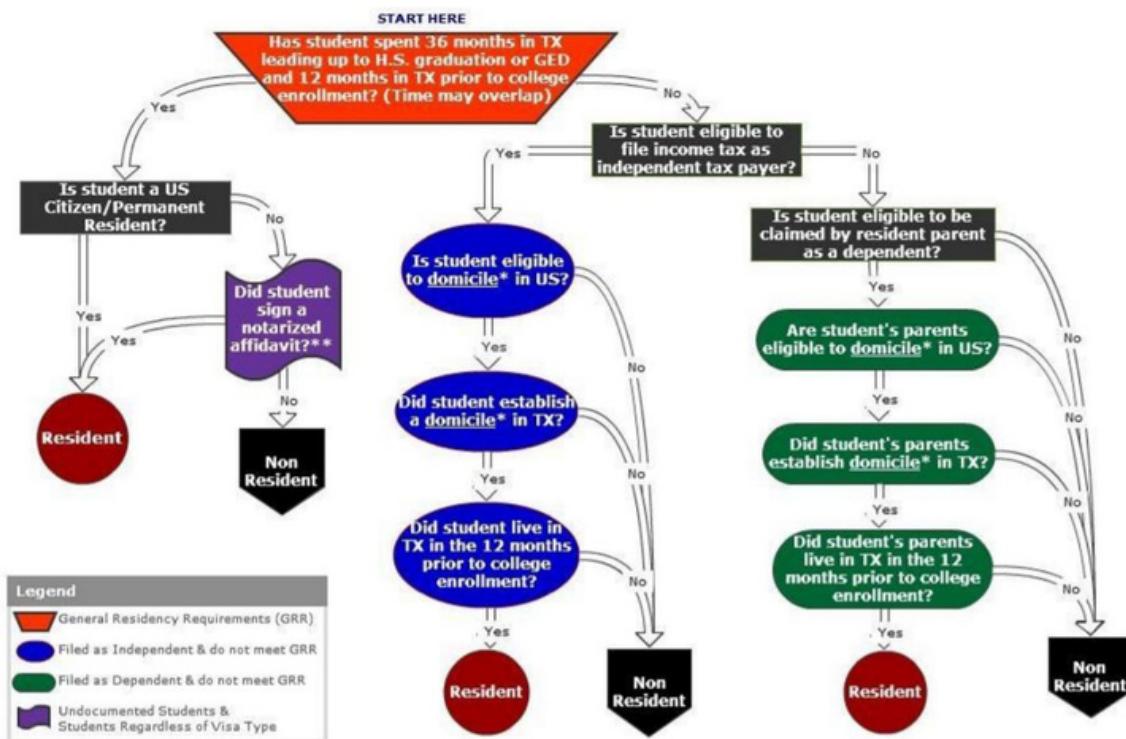
WHO DO I SEND MY AFFIDAVIT TO?

- Once you fill out the affidavit, submit it to whichever address or email address the school instructs you to send it to
- Make sure you follow-up with the recipient to ensure they received your paperwork. It is always a good practice to keep a copy when sending the original to the college or university via mail

WHAT DO I DO IF I CANNOT FIND THE AFFIDAVIT ON THE UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE?

- Either ask your High School Counselor for it, or call the admissions office, and explain that you are a student that qualifies for SB1528 or the “Texas Dream Act” and will need an “Affidavit of Intent”
- Note that some institutions will prefer that you use an Affidavit of Intent that they will provide to you on their institution letterhead (Orozco, 2015)

Texas Residency Decision Tree for High School Students
Based on information from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



*Eligible to domicile in US: US citizens, permanent residents, person with eligible visa, refugee/asylees, immigrant in process of legalization issued a NOA, TPS/NACARA/VAWA/HRIFA/Cuban Act Beneficiaries. For full list of persons eligible to domicile in US, including all eligible visas, go to <http://tinyurl.com/txresidency>.

**To qualify for Texas in-state tuition, immigrant students (undocumented or with a visa) must submit a notarized affidavit of intent to each college/university they apply to; the affidavit must state the student will apply for permanent residency status as soon as he/she is eligible to do so.

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

OVERVIEW

The two main applications that students in Texas hear about are the TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid) and the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The main difference between the two is that the TASFA is for applying to **state** financial aid, while the FAFSA is for **federal** student aid. Below is a description of the two applications along with eligibility requirements. Although undocumented students with or without DACA do not qualify for federal financial aid through FAFSA, they may sometimes be required to complete FAFSA forms to demonstrate financial need.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

- This is a form that students can fill out if they wish to apply for financial aid from the federal government to help pay college tuition (Federal Student Aid, n.d.)
- Undocumented students, including those with DACA, are not eligible for federal student aid, so they should fill out the TASFA instead of the FAFSA
- Certain non-U.S. citizens are eligible for federal student aid. If you are not an undocumented student but you are also not a US-citizen or permanent resident, visit <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens>
- If you are a student that is eligible for federal student aid, only fill out the FAFSA because the application covers federal and state financial aid opportunities
- Please note: If you are a DACA recipient with a Social Security Number (SSN), you may need to file a FAFSA form to receive institutional aid, or to demonstrate financial need for other scholarships or fellowships available to you at the state and institutional level (Federal Student Aid, n.d.). You should contact the school to see if they want you to file the FAFSA
- For more guidelines on this, please refer to the following link:
<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TEXAS APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID (TASFA)

- The TASFA is a financial aid application for students who are classified as Texas residents, but who cannot apply for aid using the FAFSA form (Texas Tech University Financial Aid, n.d.)
- When a student submits a TASFA, the form is only reviewed by the institution's financial aid office. The financial aid office cannot share any of the information to immigration services, they only use the information strictly to know the student's needs
- Filling out the TASFA will allow you to be considered for state and institutional financial resources (e.g., grants, loans, scholarships, etc.)
- The TASFA is a free application that opens on October 1st. The priority deadline for the state is January 15th; however, universities may have their own priority deadline. Visit the university's financial aid website to confirm deadlines
- The TASFA can either be electronically submitted or submitted by mail, depending on the guidelines for the specific school you are applying to
- If you need help filling out the application, you can contact the financial aid office at the college or university you are applying to for assistance. You can also use resources like Cafe College

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR TASFA SUBMISSION:



**SELECTIVE SERVICE
REGISTRATION
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CARD (MALE STUDENTS
ONLY)**



W-2 FORMS



**PARENT SIGNED TAX RETURN
(FOR DEPENDENTS)**



**STUDENT'S SIGNED
TAX RETURN**

***MORE INFO ON NEXT PAGE**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TASFA

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARD (MALE STUDENTS ONLY)

WHAT IS THE SELECTIVE SERVICE?

- In simple terms, the Selective Service is a U.S. federal agency that "facilitates the mobilization of military forces by requiring the registration of males between the ages of 18 and 25 years" (Selective Service System, n.d.)
- If you are an individual who was born male, you are between the ages of 18-25, and you live in the United States, you are required to be registered for Selective Service in order to be eligible for state financial aid regardless of your immigration status

HOW CAN I REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE?

You can register by sending in a form that is found in the selective service website:

<https://www.sss.gov/register/imigrants/>

Please note: Registering for the Selective Service is needed for male students to be eligible for state financial aid, not for applying for college admission!

WILL REGISTERING FOR THE SELECTIVE SERVICES DISCLOSE MY LEGAL STATUS?

The Selective Service "[does] not now, or in the past, collect or share any information which would indicate a man's immigration status, either documented or undocumented. The Selective Service has no authority to collect such information, has no use for it, and it is irrelevant to the registration requirement. Consequently, there is no immigration data to share with anyone" (Selective Service System, n.d.)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TASFA

W-2 FORMS

WHAT IS A W-2 FORM?

A W-2 form is a "document an employer is required to send to each employee and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at the end of the year. A W-2 reports employee's annual wages and the amount of taxes withheld from their paychecks" (The Investopedia Team, 2021).

WHOSE W-2 FORMS AM I REQUIRED TO PROVIDE WHEN APPLYING FOR STATE AID THROUGH THE TASFA ?

- If you worked during the tax year, you are required to submit your personal W-2 form (Texas A&M University, n.d.)
- If you are a dependent, you must provide your parent's W-2 forms from the previous year
- If you are married, you must also provide the W-2 form of your spouse
- If you did not work during that tax year, you do not need to submit your W-2 forms

SIGNED TAX RETURN (ALSO KNOWN AS FORM 1040)

WHAT IS A TAX RETURN?

A tax return is "a form or forms filed with a tax authority that reports income, expenses, and other pertinent tax information. Tax returns allow taxpayers to calculate their tax liability, schedule tax payments, or request refunds for the overpayment of taxes" (The Investopedia Team, 2021).

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TASFA

WHOSE SIGNED TAX RETURN AM I REQUIRED TO PROVIDE WHEN APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID?

- You must provide your own signed tax return if you filed your taxes the previous year. If you did not file your tax return, some schools will have you fill out a "student non-tax filer worksheet." Check the college or university's financial aid website to check if you are required to submit a "student non-tax filer worksheet"
- If you are married, you must also provide your spouse's signed tax return
- If you are dependent, you must also provide your parent's signed tax return

WHAT IF ONE OR BOTH OF MY PARENTS WORKED, BUT NEITHER OF THEM HAS TAX DOCUMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS TAX YEAR?

The parents will need to file taxes because the office of financial aid needs to verify those documents to process the TASFA.

WHAT IF I DID NOT WORK DURING THE TAX YEAR?

"If you did not work, you will not need to submit a W-2 or a Tax Return Transcript at this time. However, an advisor may ask you for further documentation to verify your information during processing. Please make sure that you have answered all questions about student earnings on the TASFA" (Texas A&M University, n.d.).

WORK-STUDY

WHAT IS FEDERAL WORK-STUDY?

"A federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while the student is enrolled in school to help pay his or her education expenses. The student must seek out and apply for work-study jobs at his or her school. The student will be paid directly for the hours they work and the amount they earn cannot exceed the total amount awarded by the school for the award year. The availability of work-study jobs varies by school" (Federal Student Aid, n.d.).

ARE DACA RECIPIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR A WORK STUDY PROGRAM?

"While DACA students are not eligible for federal financial aid, they may be eligible for state-based financial aid. While funds are limited, **DACA students may be eligible for work-study opportunities through the Texas College Work-Study Program (TCWSP)**. Students must complete a eTASFA or TASFA form to be considered" (University of Houston, n.d.).

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE TEXAS COLLEGE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM?

- Be Texas residents
- Show financial need through TASFA or FAFSA application
- Register for the Selective Service, unless exempt
- Be enrolled at least half time (6 credits)
- Not be a recipient of any form of athletic scholarship during the semester(s) they are receiving a TCWS award
- Not be enrolled in a seminary or other program leading to ordination or licensure to preach for a religious sect or to be a member of a religious order (Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2021)

Check the university's financial aid website to see which Texas College Work-Study Programs they offer, and if they require additional documents for their application.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

Another way of funding your college education as an undocumented student with or without DACA is through private scholarships. There are many scholarships geared towards first-generation students, Latinx students, and students with precarious immigration statuses, which are either merit-based or need-based. Some scholarships may also be available based on location or through institutional partnerships to increase the representation of some student groups. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of scholarships. You can find more online, in social media pages, or through your school networks. You should ask your high school guidance counselor for more information, as well as contact the financial aid office at the college or university you are seeking to enroll in. **Below is a list of private scholarships that you can apply for that do not require the applicant to be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.**

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#)
- [Golden Door Scholars](#)
- [College Board Opportunity Scholarship](#)
- [QuestBridge Scholarship](#)

For a large list of scholarships that do not require U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, [click here](#) to access a list provided by Immigrants Rising.

DID YOU KNOW...?

**THERE ARE AROUND
454,000
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN
THE UNITED STATES, AND
AROUND**

**14%
STUDY IN TEXAS**

(Feldblum et al.,2020)

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

MY UNDOCUMENTED LIFE

My Undocumented Life has the mission of providing up-to-date information and resources to undocumented students, their families, and allies (including educators, counselors, and administrators).

 @myundocumentedlife

UNDOCUPROFESSIONALS

UndocuProfessionals' mission is to create a safe platform for the undocumented communities to highlight their experiences as they transition from students to professionals.

 UndocuProfessionals Network
(Facebook Group)

IMMIGRANTS RISING

Immigrants Rising's mission is to empower undocumented young people to achieve educational and career goals through personal, institutional, and policy transformation.

 @immigrantsrising  @immigrantsrising
 @immigrantsrise  Immigrants Rising

THE DREAM.US

TheDREAM.US partners with over 70 colleges in 21 states that are committed to helping highly-motivated undocumented students complete their education.

 @thedream.us  TheDream.US
 @thedream_us  @thedream_us
 TheDream.US

UNDOCUSCHOLARS

The efforts of UndocuScholars are to engage institutional agents, college and university students, scholars, and community advocacy partners to create and further build on sustainable and effective best practices for undocumented youth in higher education.

 @UndocuScholars  @undocuscholars

BRAZOS INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION NETWORK

Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network mission is to promote the human dignity and well-being of all immigrants in the Bryan/College Station community and to advocate for and facilitate better access to legal, educational, and social services.

 @biintx  @biintx

HOW TO COLLEGE CRASH COURSE

This 15 episode series is part of the Study Hall Program; a partnership between Crash Course and Arizona State University. Dr. Erica Brozovsky hosts and breaks down how to apply for, succeed at, and graduate from college.

 How to College

FILLING OUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

OVERVIEW

Once you have decided which colleges you want to apply to, visit their website and see which application for admission you need to submit. Most schools in Texas use ApplyTexas while other schools use the Common App. Some schools have their own application portal, so make sure to double check before submitting applications.

APPLY TEXAS

- When asked for a social security number, leave it blank. If you have a SSN through DACA, do not use it for college applications. You will be assigned a Student ID number (ApplyTexas, 2019)
- When asked for visa information, answer accurately. **Do not lie.** You will not be disqualified based on this information
- Make sure you answer YES to the question that says “Have you resided in Texas in the last 36 months of high school” if this is true for you
- When asked if you are a legal Texas Resident, answer YES if you have lived in Texas 12 months or more (Orozco, 2015)
- If you are labeled an international student in this application form, you have done something wrong! Go back and check your answers!
- For more information on the Apply Texas questions, [click here](#)

CAN UNIVERSITIES THAT I APPLY TO SHARE MY INFORMATION WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS? IN OTHER WORDS, WILL APPLYING TO COLLEGE PUT ME AT RISK OF DISCLOSING MY LEGAL STATUS?



No, the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits colleges and universities from releasing information from students' education records without consent, except under certain specified circumstances. These circumstances include an issued subpoena, court order, or search warrant (U.S. Department of Education, 2021).

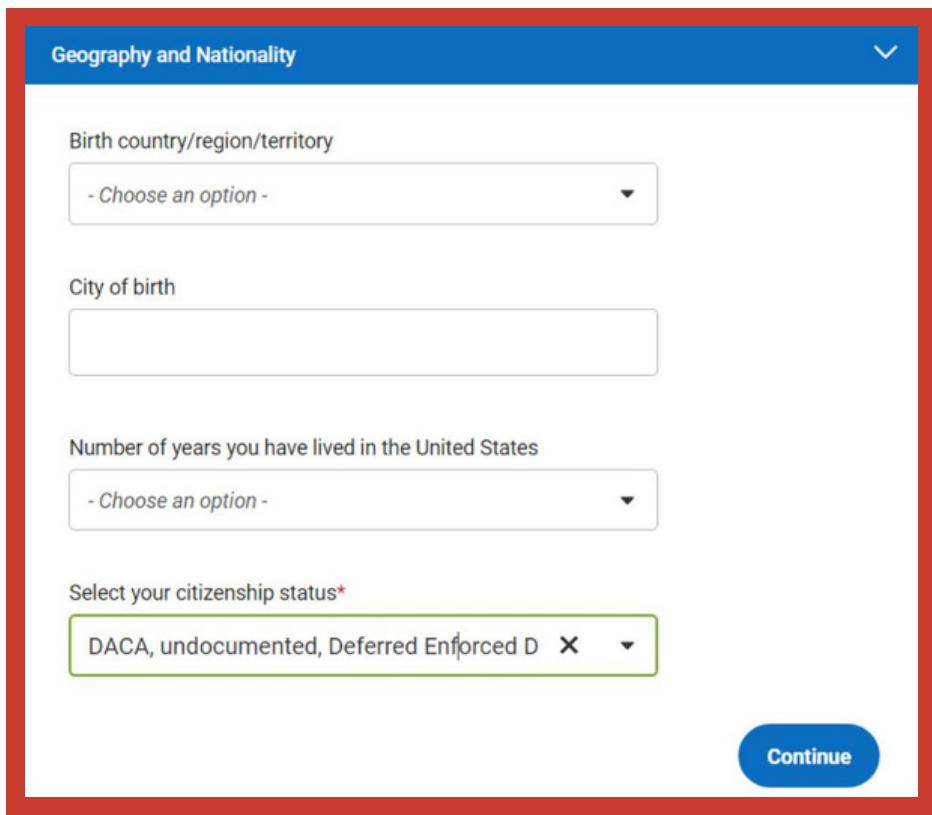
FILLING OUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

COMMON APP

The Common Application is a "single online college application form used by over 900 colleges and universities. Instead of filling out the same general information—like your address, GPA, and extracurriculars—a dozen times, you only have to do it once" (TPR Education IP Holdings, LLC., n.d.). This section includes questions that the Common Application includes regarding immigration status.

CITIZENSHIP QUESTIONS ON THE COMMON APP

The Common App now has a "DACA, undocumented, Deferred Enforced Departure, or Temporary Protected Status" option for citizenship status. If this applies to you, select that option. To see other options, click the drop down menu in the "citizenship status" question.



The image shows a screenshot of the Common Application's 'Geography and Nationality' section. The section is titled 'Geography and Nationality' and includes fields for 'Birth country/region/territory', 'City of birth', 'Number of years you have lived in the United States', and 'Select your citizenship status*'. The 'Select your citizenship status*' field is highlighted with a green border and contains the text 'DACA, undocumented, Deferred Enforced D' followed by a red 'X' and a dropdown arrow. A blue 'Continue' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

INDIVIDUAL UNIVERSITIES' POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

POLICIES

Something to keep in mind is that regardless of state laws on tuition rates for undocumented students, universities sometimes have their own policies and practices. For instance, although the Texas HB1528 allows students that meet the Texas residency criteria to pay in-state tuition, the university may still categorize you as an international student in their system. This information can be found on the university's website. If you do not find the information online, you can always contact the university directly and ask. When categorized as international students, undocumented students may need to pay extra student fees despite paying in-state tuition.

PROGRAMS

An important factor to consider when choosing a university is whether it offers resources for undocumented students with or without DACA. These support are oftentimes known as undocumented student resource centers, and they offer resources such as academic advising, counseling, financial aid, legal services, career counseling, transfer services, lending books/technology, meal vouchers, etc. (Cisneros & Valdivia, 2018). In addition, there are schools that have full-time personnel that focus solely on ensuring undocumented students succeed throughout their college careers. Below are some schools in Texas that have support for undocumented students. Please keep in mind that this is not a comprehensive list, and there may be more schools with these resources. However, the schools listed below have programs exclusively for undocumented students with or without DACA.

- The University of Texas at Austin (UT) - [Monarch Student Program](#)
- The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) - [Dreamers Resource Center](#)
- Texas Tech University - [Dream Resource Center](#)
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) - [DREAM Resource Center](#)
- Dallas College - [DACA and Dreamers at Dallas College](#)

THINKING BEYOND COLLEGE

OVERVIEW

When your undergraduate college journey comes to an end, there are many different paths you can take. Some people pursue a graduate degree, some start their own business or organization, and others go on to work for companies. Whatever your next steps are, the resources below can help you in your post-college endeavors.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumented Students (Cook & Gaylor, 2018).
<https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School -Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf>
- Resources for Undocumented Students in Higher Education (Smith & Soliz Cruz, 2019).
<https://genprogress.org/resources-undocumented-students-higher-education/>

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Immigrants Rising's Entrepreneurship Fund. <https://immigrantsrising.org/financial-support/seed-grant/>
- Income generation resources. <https://wma122hzpn616547eg937b5t-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Income-Generation-Options-for-Undocumented-Students-Toolkit-1.pdf>
- 24 Major Companies That Sponsor H-1B Visas. <https://builtin.com/diversity-inclusion/companies-that-sponsor-h1b-visas>
- The Non-Citizen's Guide to Entrepreneurship.
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5568cf13e4b0580240daceee/t/5d1a589a56fd5b0001e927f1/1562007758020/NYSYLC_Guide_062019_Web.pdf

MEDICAL SCHOOL

- List of medical schools that are "DACA friendly." https://aamcblack.global.ssl.fastly.net/production/media/filer_public/93/d5/93d5450d-1070-4fb5-8875-04c28f340db6/01-msar_daca_policies_2020.pdf
- Frequently asked Q&A: Medical School For Pre-Med Undocumented Students Across the Nation. <https://www.phdreamers.org/medical-school-for-undocumented-students>

THINKING BEYOND COLLEGE

LAW SCHOOL

- List of law schools that admit and enroll undocumented students.
<https://www.scribd.com/doc/78980367/Law-School-and-Admissions-Policies-for-DREAM-Act-Students>
- Law school resource guide for undocumented students: Getting into law school.
https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Law-School-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Students.pdf
- Immigrants Rising's Pre-Law Bootcamp. <https://immigrantsrising.org/leadership-opportunities/pre-law-bootcamp/>
- Professional and Occupational Licenses for Immigrants by State.
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/professional-and-occupational-licenses-for-immigrants.aspx>

STUDENT FAQS ABOUT INCOME GENERATION

These questions and answers are from a handbook called "Income Generation Options for Undocumented Students Toolkit," created by Immigrants Rising. To see the entire handout, please visit <https://wma122hzpn616547eg937b5t-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Income-Generation-Options-for-Undocumented-Students-Toolkit-1.pdf>

I AM AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT TRYING TO CHOOSE A MAJOR, WHERE SHOULD I START?

You can choose any major you like, however, some professions, such as those in the health industry, may require employment authorization and special licenses. Also, keep in mind that your immigration status may change at some point in the future, so do not limit your options solely based on your current status.

I SELECTED A MAJOR AND ALL INTERNSHIPS/WORK OPPORTUNITIES REQUIRE EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Depending on your major, you may be able to get training and experience through fellowships (considered financial aid), unpaid internships, or independent contracting. You may want to search for existing fellowships at your campus related to your field of study and identify ways to utilize your skills and experience to engage in professional opportunities as an independent contractor.

THINKING BEYOND COLLEGE

I KNOW I CAN'T GET EMPLOYED IN MY FIELD, SO HOW CAN I USE MY DEGREE?

Any immigrant, regardless of status, can generate income through freelancing, independent contracting, or the establishment of their own business.

BELOW ARE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THAT YOU CAN REFERENCE THROUGHOUT YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS, WHEN YOU ARE IN COLLEGE, OR EVEN AFTER YOU COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE:

- My Undocumented Life - <https://mydocumentedlife.org/>
- United We Dream - <https://unitedwedream.org/>
- TheDream.US - <https://www.thedream.us/>
- A guide for undocumented students about life after college - https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Life-After-College.pdf
- Worker's Rights for DACA Recipients - https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/daca_workers_rights_guide_ilrc_uwd_afl-cio_oct_2020.pdf
- Professional Development with Undocumented Professionals - <https://www.undocumentedprofessionals.net/>
- Navigating employment paperwork as a DACA recipient - <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/about-daca-and-employment/>
- Beyond Deferred Action: Long-Term Immigration Remedies Every Undocumented Young Person Should Know About. https://immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_Beyond-DACA-Guide.pdf

END NOTE:

This public and open-access document has been created to enhance the college access and success of undocumented students in Texas. For questions you can contact Mariana Hernandez Quiros at marianahernandezquiros@gmail.com and Dr. Cinthya Salazar at cinthyasalazarphd@gmail.com.

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