

Immigrant Student Guide

Applying for Financial Aid &
College Admissions Information



We Are Broward
Immigrant Support Plan

Broward County  Public Schools [#wearebroward](https://www.broward.k12.fl.us/)



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used by most colleges and universities in the U.S. to determine a student's eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid programs. **Undocumented students do not qualify for federally funded scholarships and grants.** Undocumented students include DACA recipients and Dreamers.

If you are an undocumented student, ***make sure you do NOT:***

- *Submit a FAFSA form to the government.*
- *Provide any false information on applications for college, university, or financial aid.*

What determines eligibility for state and federal financial aid programs is your immigration status (the student), and NOT that of your parents. Therefore, if a student is a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident but one of more of his or her parents is undocumented, the student is eligible for federal student aid.

Remember:

- College and university applications will never require students to provide a Social Security Number (SSN); it is optional.
- A SSN is required to complete the FAFSA.

It is against the law for people to use a SSN that is not their own or is false. Be aware some private scholarships may ask students to submit a FAFSA to prove financial need. You should consult an admissions officer from the college or university you are applying to for advice before submitting any documentation.

Private Scholarships

Many private scholarships are available to undocumented students. These scholarships tend to be highly competitive. It is important that you maintain high grades and participate in extra-curricular activities while in high school so you can distinguish yourself from other applicants when applying for scholarships.

Private Colleges and Universities

Many private schools are able to provide need-based scholarships and financial aid to students, irrespective of their immigration status. In contrast, public colleges and universities, for the most part, can only provide merit-based scholarships to undocumented students who must compete for the scholarships with the rest of the student body on the basis of their academic achievements and talents. Ask the colleges where you are applying if they offer private scholarships and what the requirements for eligibility are.

You could even ask about what resources are available to undocumented applicants. Research different community centers, churches, and local schools to find out if they offer scholarships. Remember to apply to as many scholarships as possible, no matter how much (or little) the financial award, because scholarship money adds up quickly!

In-State Tuition Policy

On June 9, 2014, Governor Rick Scott signed **HB 851** into law. The bill grants undocumented students out-of-state fee waivers if they meet the following criteria:

- Attended a Florida secondary school for 3 consecutive years immediately before graduating from a Florida high school
- Applied for enrollment in an institution of higher education within 24 months after high school graduation
- Submitted an official Florida high school transcript as evidence of attendance and graduation

A student granted an out-of-state fee waiver is *still considered a non-resident student*, is not eligible for financial aid, and cannot be reported as a resident for tuition purposes. In addition, this bill also states that a dependent child who is a U.S. citizen may not be denied classification as a resident for tuition purposes based solely upon the immigration status of his/her parent. Unfortunately, federal financial aid is unavailable for undocumented students. Sixteen states have passed laws that offer in-state tuition rates and grants to undocumented students.

States that offer in-state tuition rates for undocumented students in addition to Florida: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Financial Aid Options

Questions to Ask Admissions Officers & Financial Aid Advisors

Type of Aid	U.S. Citizen	Legal Permanent Resident	Visa Holder	DACA Recipient	Undocumented
Federal Aid	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
State Aid	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
In-State Tuition	Yes, If student meets residency requirements	Yes, If student meets residency requirements	Depends on student's visa type	Yes, in Florida	Yes, In Florida
Government Loans	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Private Loans	Yes	Yes	Yes, but may need U.S. Citizen or permanent resident cosigner	Yes, but may need U.S. Citizen or permanent resident cosigner	Yes, but may need U.S. Citizen or permanent resident cosigner
Government Grants	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Institutional Aid	Yes	Yes	Depends on student's visa type and the school they attend	Depends on school student attends	Depends on school student attends
Federal Work-Study	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Private Scholarships	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements	Depends on eligibility requirements

2017 Tuition, Fees, and Living Costs Comparison Table (Examples of Colleges in Florida)

School	Tuition & Fees	Books & Supplies	Living Costs		
	In-State	Out-of-State		On Campus	Off Campus
Broward College	\$2,753	\$8,875	\$1,234		\$18,139
Florida Atlantic University (FAU)	\$4,831	\$17,276	\$1,320	\$16,494	\$17,082
University of Central Florida (UCF)	\$6,368	\$22,467	\$1,152	\$14,734	\$14,734
Florida International University (FIU)	\$6,556	\$18,954	\$1,590	\$15,366	\$17,191
University of Florida (UF)	\$6,381	\$28,659	\$1,210	\$13,660	\$13,660
Miami-Dade College	\$2,834	\$9,661	\$1,600		\$22,415
The Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale	\$17,700	\$17,700	\$1,500		\$11,810
Barry University	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$1,500	\$15,540	\$19,100
Lynn University	\$36,650	\$36,650	\$800	\$16,552	\$17,391
Keiser University	\$18,368	\$18,368	\$2,000		\$15,816
University of Miami (UM)	\$47,004	\$47,004	\$930	\$16,372	\$19,552
Nova Southeastern University	\$28,736	\$28,736	\$1,500	\$17,100	\$27,135

<http://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/compare/tables/?state=FL°ree=Undergraduate>

FLORIDA IN-STATE TUITION LAW FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS



If you are an undocumented student in **FLORIDA**, or if you have received DACA, this law might allow you to pay fair tuition rates at state colleges and universities.

WHO QUALIFIES?

Students that attended and graduated from a Florida High School (GED is not eligible) for at least 3 years AND have applied to a higher education institution within 24 months of graduation.

HOW?

Your college or university provides an out-of-state tuition waiver so you can pay the same as every other student.

MYTHS ABOUT IN-STATE TUITION LAW

- 1. Does this mean I am an “in-state student?”** No. You will be categorized as a non-Florida resident with a partial tuition waiver.
- 2. Am I eligible for financial aid?** No. This law DOES NOT grant eligibility for government financial support. Students are encouraged to seek financial aid from private, non-government scholarships.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Out-of-state tuition can be more than **DOUBLE** the amount of in-state tuition.

Find out more about scholarships: www.floridaimmigrant.org
Call our FREE hotline at 1-888-600-5762



floridaimmigrant.org



Florida Immigrant Coalition



@FLImmigrant



Scholarship Applications: Tips for Students

List your accomplishments

Before you start, make a list of your accomplishments you can refer to as clear, concrete examples of *your strengths* in your essays.

Research the scholarship

Research the individual or institution offering the scholarship to *find out what they look for* in applicants. Clearly articulate these qualities in your essays to show you are an ideal and deserving candidate.

Get to the point!

Answer questions clearly and directly. Adhere to the word and page limits. *You may choose to mention your immigration status and the obstacles you had to overcome because of it or explain you are ineligible for federal aid for higher education.*

Comb through and edit

Proofread your essays: spelling mistakes and bad grammar are unacceptable. Ask at least two people to read through your work before sending it in.

Prepare for interviews

Many private scholarships require face-to-face interviews with their applicants. It is a good idea to *start practicing public speaking* and interview techniques.

Find an advocate to help you

Many scholarships require *letters of recommendation* for teachers or counselors. Make sure whomever you ask knows you well and understands your immigration situation.

Is there an appeal process?

If you are awarded a scholarship but the award money is not enough to cover your costs, be aware some scholarships have an appeal process in which you may receive additional aid under special circumstances.

Speaking with Admissions:

Speaking directly with an admissions officer or financial aid advisor will be extremely valuable. When calling an admissions or financial aid office, *ask if there is a member of staff who specializes in working with undocumented students*. Listed below are some questions you may want to ask:

Admissions:

- How should an undocumented student respond to the citizenship question on your application? Should an undocumented student leave the SSN field blank or enter zeros?
- Can students leave fields blank on your online application or will they need to submit a paper application?

Financial Aid:

- Are undocumented students eligible for any institutional financial aid? If so, are there any additional forms they need to complete?
- Do you offer fee or tuition waivers and if so how may students apply for them?
- How can students qualify for in-state tuition?

Scholarships:

- Do you offer institutional scholarships for undocumented students? How about private scholarships?
- What qualifications are needed to apply to these scholarships? Should students submit any additional forms?
- If a student is awarded a scholarship, what must he/she do to keep it? Will he/she lose the scholarship as a result of poor grades?
- Are these scholarships valid for the entire duration a student is enrolled at your school? What if a student takes longer than four years to graduate? Do you have any scholarships for transfer students?

Programs of Study:

- Are there any majors that are unavailable to undocumented students because of their immigration status?
- Does applying to this school/major require a background check?
- After graduation, can undocumented students work with this type of degree? Or would they need to get a background check, certificate, or state licensure that they would be ineligible for because of their immigration status?

Further Alternatives for Funding

Many undocumented students get creative when searching for alternative ways to pay for college. Here are some examples of what students do to ease their financial burden:

Crowd-funding:

Online crowd-funding websites are useful for targeting a large number of people at one time. Most websites allow people to post a short story about themselves and their funding mission to persuade others to support their cause. Students can post a personalized crowd-funding link to their Facebook page, Twitter, and other social media platforms they may use to connect with their friends and family.

Donation Letters:

Students could draft a donation letter asking family, friends, and local businesses to support them financially and help them achieve their educational goals. Students should specify why they are pursuing higher education, what they hope to do with their education, and outline the financial struggles they foresee as they work towards their degree.

Private loans:

Some banks offer private loans to undocumented immigrants. However, these banks typically require qualified undocumented borrowers to have a credit-worthy U.S. citizen or permanent resident co-sign the loan. Students and their families should be aware loans usually come with high interest rates.

Resources & Bibliography

Colleges accepting undocumented students & financial information

Use **Naviance** to do your searches. Log into Naviance at www.browardschools.com/naviance and find your school. Under the College tab, scroll down to 'Scholarships & Money', the option 'National Scholarship Search' is where you can narrow your search criteria under 'Citizenship'; you can then choose 'Not a US Citizen'. You can also narrow your search criteria using the 'Special Circumstances' drop down menu and choose 'Immigrant' or 'International Student'.

<http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide/>

<http://cccie.org/outreach/resources-for-colleges-serving-undocumented-students/>

<https://mydocumentedlife.org/2016/09/14/colleges-that-accept-undocumented-students-as-domestic-students/>

Advising Undocumented Students:

<https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>

<https://chooseyourfuture.cps.edu/high-school-college-career/undocumented-students/>

<http://www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/undocumented-student-college-guide/>

<http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Supporting-Floridas-Undocumented-Students-Webinar-November-2015.pdf>

Florida Immigrant Coalition –Information about In-state Tuition:

<https://floridaimmigrant.org/our-work/education-immigrant-youth/in-state-tuition/>

Florida Policy regarding In-State Tuition:

<http://uleadnet.org/map/florida-policy>

What's the Price Tag for a College Education?

http://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_payarticle_tmpl.jhtml?articleId=10064

<http://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/compare/tables/?state=FL°ree=Undergraduate>

<https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-room-and-board-over-time>

http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/FFELP/Undocumented_Students/Undoc_Students_home.html (Office of Student Financial Assistance)

<http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented.phtml>

http://www.collegedata.com/cs/promo/promo_netcost_tmpl.jhtml

FAQS re HB 851 (In state Tuition):

https://floridaimmigrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/florida_hb_851_fact_sheet_2014_english.pdf

These are a few scholarship opportunities for undocumented students:

- CHISPAS Scholarships – chispasuf.com
- Becas Univision – univision.hsfts.net
- OCIYU Scholarship – ociyu.org/ociyu-scholarship

Here are some websites you can use to research scholarships:

<http://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/ektron/9bbef920-9549-441f-a931-a23cc97a3889/b5eb27cfd02d4b1dbefda62566dd9af45.pdf>

- Fast Web: www.fastweb.com
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund: www.maldef.org
- Get Ready for College: www.getreadyforcollege.org/gPg.cfm?pageID=1586
- Latino College Dollars: www.latinocollegedollars.org
- Scholarships for Hispanics: www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org
- Genesco Migrant Center: www.migrant.net
- Mexican Scholarship Fund: <http://mexicanscholarshipfund.org/>
- La Plaza Scholarship and Financial Aid Guide: (English PDF) (Spanish PDF)
- SADCO Scholarship Program: <http://sadco.org/sadco-scholarship-program>

English/Spanish Glossary of Student Financial Aid and Post Secondary Education:

<http://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/ektron/88fdd293-2f4e-4c63-996e-f4bb95192879/0787ae7a3bcd4d0e98888ea6e82a69344.pdf>

Know your rights information:

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights/>

<https://www.aclu.org/>

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-youre-stopped-police-immigration-agents-or-fbi>

<https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>

United We Dream: Protect yourself from Immigration Raids

<https://unitedwedream.org/toolbox/>

Safety Planning:

<http://michiganimmigrant.org/resources/library>

Ten myths about Immigration:

<http://www.tolerance.org/article/sources-ten-myths-about-immigration>

Southern Poverty Law Center –Immigrant Justice:

<https://www.splcenter.org/issues/immigrant-justice>

FAQS: DACA, BRIDGE Act, and being undocumented in 2017:

<https://www.informedimmigrant.com/faq/>

FAQS: The BRIDGE Act “Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream of Growing Our Economy”

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/faq-bridge-act/>

Immigrant Legal Resource Center:

<https://www.ilrc.org/daca>



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