



Aspire Higher:



An Undocumented Student Guide

To College In Michigan



JUNE 2019



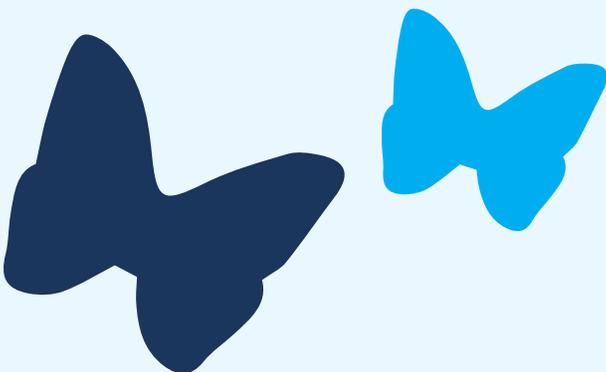
MICHIGAN
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

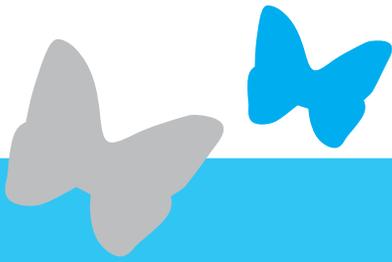




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I TRIED TACKLING THE BATTLE OF APPLYING TO COLLEGE AS AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT. TO SAY I WAS LOST WAS AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

“ In the beginning of my senior year in high school I went online to the University of Michigan website; I clicked on the “Apply Online” tab and stared at the application trying to figure out what to do. Confused and alone I tried tackling the battle of applying to college as an undocumented student. To say I was lost was an understatement. I reviewed the application, trying to answer all the questions in my mind. The social security and citizenship blanks were just staring at me, as if taunting me to figure out how to fill them in. I had no idea what to do, who turn to, or where to begin. I was so afraid of asking anyone for help because the thought of bringing up the topic seemed like a huge risk. I was even afraid of doing a simple “Google” search on undocumented students in college to figure out where to start. ”

- Undocumented Student

Introduction



*Every year, approximately **98,000** unauthorized immigrants graduate from high school.¹ Additionally Michigan is home to approximately **129,000** undocumented immigrants, including **13,000** DACA eligible individuals.² These students have goals, plans, dreams of going to college and having successful careers.*

The right to free K-12 public education was granted by the 1982 case Plyler vs. Doe. In this case, the United States Supreme Court ruled that undocumented kids could not be denied a K-12 education. It also specified that schools could not ask about the immigration status of their students.

Sadly, many undocumented students believe that because they do not have legal immigration status, they cannot go to college. But that's not

true! There are many ways that undocumented students can access higher education.

This guide is designed to help those students and their families by providing resources available for undocumented students interested in pursuing education after high school, regardless of citizenship status.

As we work to increase access to a college education for undocumented students, we would like to clarify that there are **NO LAWS** that prohibit students from attending college based on immigration status. Additionally, **many** colleges and universities in Michigan do grant in-state tuition to undocumented and DACA students. College cost policies may vary from school to school, but accessing college is possible for everyone.

¹ Migration Policy Institute, available at: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/unauthorized-immigrants-graduate-us-high-schools>

² Migration Policy Institute "Profile of Unauthorized population in Michigan" available at: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/MI#>

What does it mean to be undocumented?

YOU MAY BE UNDOCUMENTED IF:

1

You were born in a country other than the United States

2

You are not a naturalized citizen, and/or

3

You do not have any legal immigration status, such as permanent residence (aka a "green card"), a student visa, refugee or asylum status. People who are undocumented typically do not have a social security number, driver's license, or a work permit, but this can vary depending on your individual circumstances.³

³. If you do not have a work permit but receive income, you should report this income to the IRS using an ITIN number. For more information, please go to <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview/>.

Who is a DACA Student?

If you are undocumented, then you do not qualify for federal or state based financial aid in Michigan. You cannot work legally unless you get employment authorization, for example, through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or as an asylum or permanent resident applicant. In Michigan you also cannot get a driver's license or state identification card without legal presence.⁴

Please note, DACA is temporary and does not provide a pathway to permanent residence or citizenship. However, it grants eligible applicants temporary permission called “deferred action” to stay in the United States, receive a social security number, apply for a work permit, and obtain a Michigan driver's license.⁵ If you already have DACA, to maintain valid employment authorization, the best time for you to submit your DACA renewal application is 120 to 150 days (4-5 months) before the date your current DACA and work permit expire. You must renew your employment authorization every two years. Please note that there are legal requirements and fees associated with renewing DACA. Please visit the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website](https://michiganimmigrant.org/sites/default/files/MI-DLEnglish-12-18-2018.pdf) for further details. As of this publication date, June 2019, the existence of DACA is in limbo and being litigated. If you have never had DACA, you are not permitted to apply for the first time, but that could change. Please consult with the [Michigan Immigrant Rights Center](#) or [OneMichigan](#) for more information.

PREPARE, APPLY, ENROLL

Being undocumented, however, does not stop you from attending college.

Several colleges and universities in Michigan admit and enroll undocumented students, and several provide institution-based financial aid. There are also private scholarships available to help fund your education. **That is the purpose of this guide: to help you prepare, apply, enroll in, and pay for college.**



⁴Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Immigrants and Michigan Driver's Licenses: Past, Present, and Future, Dec. 2018 <https://michiganimmigrant.org/sites/default/files/MI-DLEnglish-12-18-2018.pdf>

⁵ For more information about obtaining a driver's license in Michigan, please go to https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1627_8669--,00.html

Preparing for college

Planning for college doesn't have to be a big drain on your time. Learn the steps you need to take to get to college! For additional information, visit [uLEAD \(University Leaders for Educational Access and Diversity\) Network](#).

STEP **1** DO NOT GIVE UP!

- Let everyone know that you are going to college and need their help.
 - Never say no. Don't ever take that "no" in your head for an answer!
 - Call on adults you trust. Counselors cannot ask about your immigration status. Ask your teachers and coaches for advice on college – it's their job to help you succeed.
 - Find family support. So what if your parents didn't go to college? Parents and other family members often have real experience and knowledge that can help you on your way.
 - Gain experience. Track down places outside of school where you can get real-world experience from adults who can show you how it's done.
- Make connections. Connect with friends, neighbors and mentors who have been to college and ask them how they got there.
 - Seek out college preparation programs like the [Hispanic Center of Western Michigan Supporting Our Leaders \(SOL\) Youth Program](#), [Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education](#) or [Ferris State University's Promesa Summer Success Program](#). Additionally, there are many resources available on The [uLEAD \(University Leaders for Educational Access and Diversity\) Network](#) and [The College Board's "Big Future"](#) website.

Preparing for college

STEP **2** DO YOUR RESEARCH!

CHOOSING A HIGH SCHOOL

Preparing for college starts as early as middle school. It's a good idea to start researching the type of college-prep courses and options available in different schools and districts. Some districts offer more undocumented student friendly scholarships than others. High school offerings may include Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, early/middle colleges or high school dual enrollment.

Before enrolling into the designated high school according to district boundaries make sure you research the different schools nearby, ask if there is a "School of Choice" program. Don't just assume that the nearest school is the best one or that because you are undocumented that there are no opportunities available for you.

“

I wish I had researched which high schools offer you the most scholarships. Instead I just picked the closest one to my house. Little did I know that some schools even offer you full-ride scholarships. - Undocumented Student

”



Preparing for college

HIGH SCHOOL CHECKLIST

FRESHMAN YEAR (9TH GRADE)

- Take the required amount of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education
- Start volunteering and doing community service
- Join extracurricular activities and sports
- Get to know your teachers and counselors – this will make it easier to discuss your status with them if you're comfortable with it.
Note: Counselors cannot report you, they follow a code of ethics and must keep information confidential.
- Start thinking about college!
- Explore [RaiseMe](#) to explore microsolarships

SOPHOMORE YEAR (10TH GRADE)

- Take the required courses
- Take college prep-courses AND keep up good grades, the higher the better! Continue to volunteer and keep a record of how many hours you've done
- Take positions of leadership in your extracurricular activities or sports
- Start preparing for SAT or ACT and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and take practice tests
- Research colleges, especially undocumented friendly ones and visit them!

JUNIOR YEAR (11TH GRADE)

- Take required courses
- Take Advanced Placement courses (AP)
- Take SAT or ACT Test in Spring of this year
- Take the Michigan Merit Examination (MME)
- Continue to volunteer, do extracurricular activities, or sports
- Keep up your grades!
- Make a list of schools you're especially interested in attending
- Look for scholarships
- (Optional) – Set up an appointment with a college admission counselor to discuss your status and see what the school can do for you!

SENIOR YEAR (12TH GRADE)

- Take required courses
- Keep up your grades (they do count senior year)
- Apply for admission to college
- Retake SAT or ACT as needed
- Visit college campuses and start applying
- Research and apply for scholarships
- Pick the college you're attending
- Send your test scores and transcript to college
- Sign up for your college orientation
- If required, send in the admissions/enrollment deposit, which reserves your place at that college!
- Review your financial aid offer letters from colleges

Preparing for college

Here is more information regarding the classes you take and how to prepare for college:

COLLEGE PREP CLASSES:

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires specific credits in certain subjects to graduate from high school. It is recommend that all students take as many college-prep courses within those requirements to best prepare for the rigor of college coursework.⁶

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES:

Earn college credit if you enroll in these courses, take the AP Exams, and earn a score of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5) on the course exam that occurs at the end of the school year. Usually AP classes are available for juniors and seniors only, however it's a good idea to check with your school counselor to pick what classes are best for you.

ACT AND SAT TESTS:

It's very important that you take this test seriously. The higher you place the better the chances of getting into a good college and the more scholarship money you can earn. The average SAT score for students in the state of Michigan in 2018 was a 1000 and for the ACT it was 24. The good news is that if you don't do as well as you would like, you can retake either test. Typically, colleges and universities take your highest SAT or ACT score for admission. Most schools want you to have a higher than average test score to receive better scholarships. Therefore it's important you prepare and realize that even though you may not have legal status yet, this test WILL help you! Both tests are accepted in colleges and universities. You can prepare for the SAT and ACT using the Khan Academy.



⁶Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements (updated Sept. 2017) https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Complete_MMC_FAQ_August_2014_467323_7.pdf.

Preparing for college

GET INVOLVED:

Colleges are seeking well-rounded students – students who are also active “out of the classroom.” Not only does it help set you apart from other students, but it also gives you the opportunity to meet people who can potentially help you later on. You never know if the community center you volunteer for offers private scholarships you can later apply for.

TAKING COLLEGE COURSES WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL (KNOWN AS “DUAL ENROLLMENT”):

Many schools offer you the opportunity to take college courses at the local college for free. This a great chance to start taking classes early so that you don’t have to take them in college. Check to see if this is available in your school and what are the requirements for the classes are. Often, it’s getting above a certain score on your SAT (another reason to do better on it). Since you cannot legally drive without a valid license, check with your high school about options for getting to the college for these courses.

VISITING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

Don’t just believe the college fliers and handouts you receive in the mail. Invite your family members to join you to explore the different colleges. Take a tour of the school and meet the instructors and students. If necessary, ask the colleges/universities if they provide a translator for family members who do not speak English. Many colleges offer Open House programs, which are large events that offer much information.

Preparing for college

STEP **3** FIND THE RIGHT FIT!

Find out what kind of school is the best match for you and your career goals.

WHAT'S THE RIGHT MATCH?

The kind of college you choose to attend should reflect your goals and your personality. Whether you choose a public, private, community, technical, trade or even online college, make sure it's the best match for you and your goals.

HOME OR AWAY?

Attending a local college and living at home versus living on campus – what's better? It depends. For some, residence hall life is an important part of the college experience, but commuting from home can be less expensive. Use colleges' net price calculators on their websites to confirm tuition and room/board costs.

WHICH MAJOR?

Figuring out what you like doing most, plus what you are best at, can point to the careers you should consider – and what majors will help you reach your career goal. [Michigan's Pathfinder website](#) can help. Consider and research whether the major or career you are interested in will eventually require certification or state licensure which will require proof of authorization to work legally in the U.S.

WHY EXTRAS MATTER.

Getting into extracurricular activities outside of class – band, science club, the school newspaper, drama or even volunteering – helps you discover what your real interests are and where you are headed in the future. Colleges also vary in the kinds of professional and internship experiences they can offer to students, so pay attention to that as well.

How to apply for college

Applying for college makes everyone nervous, even more so if you are undocumented. One very important thing to remember is that you are not alone.

TIPS FOR FILLING OUT A COLLEGE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

- 1 Fill out the application completely.
- 2 Do not claim you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident if you are not. You may choose to leave questions about citizenship or immigration status blank.
- 3 If the application asks for your Social Security Number, leave it blank or fill in all zeros unless you have your own valid Social Security Number.
- 4 If you are leaving some answers on your application blank, you may not be able to fill out the online application, as many will not let you continue to the next page until every section is complete. If that's the case, you may have to print the application and send it through the mail, which is usually acceptable. Be sure to call or email to make sure you can mail your application in and also to confirm their mailing address.
- 5 It's very important to make sure all information on your application is true/accurate. Making a false claim of U.S. citizenship or providing fraudulent information on an application can have serious consequences on your future immigration options or lead to criminal prosecution.

“

When I was applying to college I felt so alone and confused. I wish there had been someone to give me some sort of direction or at least have someone who would let me vent about how angry and I disappointed I felt. If only I had known that thousands of kids were in my same situation it would have made it a lot easier to face - **Undocumented Student**

”

How to apply for college

Will a school tell Immigration and Customs Enforcement I'm undocumented?

GENERALLY, NO.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools are not allowed to share your personal information from school records without your permission. There are some very limited exceptions where the school may share your information without your consent, such as reporting suspicions of fraud involving Federal Student Aid or false claims of U.S. citizenship.⁷

It can be very helpful to discuss your status with the admissions counselor of a specific college you're interested in so that he or she can tell you more about how the school's policies and resources apply to you. Every college and university has their own admissions policies. You can ask your high school counselor to help you find out more information, or contact a university's admissions office directly.

“

When I was applying to college I decided it would be best to talk to my admissions counselor and explain that I was undocumented. Although I was afraid of what she would think I did not know of any other options. She showed me which scholarships I could apply for and how I should fill in the admissions application. She wasn't judgmental or anything like that, and it really did help. - Undocumented Student

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⁷ See 20 U.S. Code § 1232g; 34 CFR § 99.31; 34 CFR § 668.16.

How to apply for college

Questions to ask admissions and financial aid officers:

- 1 How should an undocumented student fill out citizenship/residency questions on your application, or which box should I check on the application?
- 2 Do I leave it blank or add zeros where it asks for a Social Security number?
- 3 Can I apply online or only in person?
- 4 Do I qualify for in-state tuition?
- 5 Do you have any merit-based financial aid I can apply for, even though I don't have a Social Security Number (SSN)?
- 6 Do you have any need-based financial aid I can apply for, even though I don't have a Social Security Number (SSN)?
- 7 Are there specific majors that are not available to me because of my status? Does applying to the major/school that I want require a background check?
- 8 Does my course of study eventually require licensing or certification that I might not be able to complete because of my status?
- 9 When am I eligible to start applying for institutional scholarships?

Paying for college

STEP **4** RESEARCH HOW TO PAY

Paying for college is by far one of the most difficult challenges that undocumented students face.

Not only because they are not eligible for Federal Financial Aid, but also because they often cannot apply for private loans. However, don't let this discourage you or get you thinking that college is out of the question simply because of the cost. Colleges and universities have their own array of scholarships you can apply for, even if you're undocumented, so make sure to ask about them. These campuses will also be able to give you more money if you do well on your SAT or ACT so be sure to take those exams seriously. There are a lot of different types of financial aid out there, so you need to find out which kind or combination works best for your needs.

RAISEME MICRO SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the first things you can do in high school to start getting money for college is participating in the RaiseMe program. It is a free way to earn micro-scholarships for all the work you're doing in high school. For example, you can earn between \$400 and \$1,000 just for getting an "A" in a core class and hundreds of dollars for each extracurricular activity you do and for each leadership position you hold in your student organizations. You can enroll in this program for free at any point in high school but it's best to enroll as soon as possible to maximize your scholarships. Only colleges that are partners with RaiseMe offer scholarships this way. Go to the [RaiseMe website](#) to sign up and to see if the college/university you are considering is a partner. Nearly 20 colleges in Michigan participate in RaiseMe.

FAFSA

[FAFSA](#) stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is a form that most students fill out once a year to determine how much federal and state financial aid help they can get based on their family income. Undocumented and DACA students are not eligible for federal financial aid. For specific information about the FAFSA and Undocumented Students, [check out this document](#).

Paying for college

FAFSA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ⁸

Michigan does not offer state aid to undocumented or DACA students.

1) If I am not eligible for federal financial aid, should I still fill out the FAFSA?

Yes. Many scholarships or school-based aid that you may be eligible for will ask for a copy of the FAFSA to determine your income and how much your family might be able to contribute to your tuition and living expenses, so you should still plan to fill it out. You may also want to check with your high school counselor or your college/career school financial aid office to ask what types of financial aid you may be eligible for and whether completing FAFSA is required to apply for that financial aid.

2) How do I fill out the FAFSA if I don't have a social security number?

You will need to [fill out a PDF or paper version of the form](#). Fill out the form completely and truthfully. Leave the section for social security number blank. For the question, "Are you a U.S. citizen" you may leave it blank or select "No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen." Leave the A-number section blank.

Alternatively, you can fill out the [College Board CSS Profile](#) if you do not have a social security number since many colleges also accept. More information on the CSS Profile is on page 18. Michigan schools that use the CSS Profile can be found [here](#).

3) If I have DACA, does that change how I fill out the FAFSA?

If you have DACA, then you have a valid social security number and may choose to fill out the FAFSA online using that number. You should fill out the form completely and truthfully. Leave the question about citizenship blank or select "No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen." Leave the A-number section blank. As a DACA recipient you still do not qualify for federal financial aid. You can find the online FAFSA on their website and click ["Start a New FAFSA."](#)

4) Does the FAFSA ask about my parents' immigration status?

No. Your parents' status does not affect your eligibility and the FAFSA does not ask.

5) Do my parents need Social Security numbers?

No. Since your parents' citizenship does not affect your ability to complete the FAFSA, they do not need Social Security numbers. If your parents do not have Social Security numbers, and you are filling the form out online, you must enter 000-00-0000 when the FAFSA asks for parents' Social Security numbers. In this situation, you must print out the signature page from the online FAFSA so that your parents can sign it and send it in.

⁸ Much of this information is copied from the U.S. Department of Education's publication "Questions and Answers: Financial Aid and Undocumented Students," available at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

Paying for college

FAFSA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

6) How do I answer the question, “What is your state of legal residence?”

The state of legal residence is your true, fixed, and permanent home. Your immigration status does not affect how you should answer this question for purposes of completing the FAFSA. It is simply about where you live. Note that each state determines legal residency differently. You should contact your high school counselor or college or career school financial aid office for assistance with state of legal residence qualifications.

7) How do I answer the question, “What is your parents’ state of legal residence?”

Your parents’ answer should reflect their true, fixed, and permanent home. Your parents’ immigration status does not affect how you should answer this question for purposes of completing the FAFSA. Again, it is simply about where they live, and each state determines legal residency differently.

8) How do I submit my tax information?

If you are completing the [FAFSA online](#) and you filed your income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), you may be able to access the information through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. If you did not file an income tax return with the IRS, enter the requested financial information

manually on the FAFSA website. If completing the paper FAFSA, follow the instructions that detail how to answer the financial information questions.

9) How do my parents submit their tax information?

If you are completing the FAFSA online and your parents filed their income tax returns with the IRS and they meet certain requirements such as having Social Security numbers, they may be able to access their tax information through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. If your parents did not file their income tax returns with the IRS, you can enter the requested information manually on the FAFSA website. If completing the paper FAFSA, follow the instructions that detail how to answer the parental financial information questions.

10) Is there any reason I should submit my FAFSA to the Department of Education?

Yes. Even though you are not eligible for aid, the Department of Education will send you a Student Aid Report (SAR) with information from your FAFSA that you can share with schools. Since your application will be rejected, your SAR will not include your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Paying for college

FAFSA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

11) If I submit my FAFSA to the Department of Education, will they give my information to immigration?

If you claim U.S. citizenship or a certain immigration status on your application, the Department of Education generally sends that information to the Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security for verification in their databases. However if you have left the citizenship and A-number sections blank, then the Department of Education will not attempt to check your status.⁹ Your application will simply be denied as incomplete.

If you prefer not to submit your FAFSA to the government, you can send a copy of your FAFSA directly to the schools and scholarships you are applying for.

12) Do deadlines matter?

Absolutely. College financial aid goes fast. The earlier you can get in your FAFSA application and all of the other information that a college asks for, the sooner you'll receive your financial aid package.

CSS PROFILE

If, for whatever reason, you are uncomfortable with or unable to fill out a FAFSA application, you can complete the [CSS Profile](#) and submit that to colleges so they can assess your financial need for scholarships. Often, students who do not have a social security number use the CSS Profile. The [CSS Profile is managed by College Board](#) and usually, only colleges and universities that are “participating members” will accept a CSS Profile submission from a student. However, you should save a copy of your CSS Profile report on your computer and email the financial aid offices of colleges you are interested in to ask if they will use that report to consider your eligibility for scholarships instead of FAFSA. As of May 2019, three Michigan colleges use the CSS Profile: Hillsdale College, Olivet College, and the University of Michigan.

⁹. Federal Student Aid Handbook 2017-2018, available at <https://ifap.ed.gov/fsahandbook/attachments/1718FSAHbkActiveIndex.pdf>

Paying for college

COST OF COLLEGE

There is no way around it, college costs money. It's important to research your options and see what best suits you and what is most affordable.

PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Public schools are partially funded by the government. There are three different tuition rates for students:

In-State: The price Michigan resident students pay to attend college. In Michigan, colleges and universities vary on whether they grant in-state tuition to undocumented students, so it is very important that you ask the specific college you are interested in whether you can get in-state tuition because you might actually be eligible!

Out-of-State: The price charged to students who live in states other than Michigan. This price may also be charged to undocumented students who attend public Michigan colleges.

International: International students are those who come from another country for college or university; they usually have legal status while in school. Undocumented students are typically not international students.

PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Independent colleges offer a diverse environment, smaller campus sizes for all, and a personalized commitment to assist students in addition to resources that support DACA recipients.

Do not take yourself out of the game by ruling out a particular college or university based solely on the published tuition rate. The price of college can often intimidate students and families, and while the overall tuition or "sticker price" of an independent college or university can be higher, once all types of financial aid are factored in, the actual "out-of-pocket" expense is often about the same or sometimes even less at an independent college or university.

It is important to talk to the admissions office to see how your status will affect the application process and what financial aid options are available to you. Faculty and staff at independent colleges and universities want to help in your student success.

Paying for college

COST OF COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

TUITION EQUITY

Some Michigan colleges and universities allow undocumented students who meet the Michigan residency requirements to qualify for in-state tuition regardless of their immigration status. But others charge out-of-state tuition. There is no statewide-policy when it comes to allowing undocumented students to attend college. Therefore, we strongly recommend checking with each school's admissions office for the most up-to-date in-state tuition policies for undocumented students. Equally important, do not accept the answer you receive from one individual as the last word. Ask different people from different departments of the same school.

COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM (CAMP)

If you are a child of a migratory or seasonal farmworker, you may be eligible for financial aid stipends during your first year of college as a part of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). Contact the Institution of Higher Education (IHE) you are considering to inquire. Other types of services you may be eligible for as a part of the CAMP include counseling, tutoring, skills workshops, health services, and housing assistance during your first year of college.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education, Migrant Education - College Assistance Migrant Program, <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/camp/index.html>.

Paying for college

COST OF COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

IN-STATE/IN-DISTRICT TUITION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community colleges are a great option for all students, undocumented or not. They offer the general required classes all college students must take, usually at a much less expensive rate. However, if you decide to attend a community college first, you have to make sure that the classes you are taking transfer to the university you plan on attending.

See below for some examples of community colleges that offer in-district tuition rates for undocumented or DACA students that meet the other in-district requirements. Other Michigan community colleges may offer this as well; we recommend that you contact them for more information.

FOR UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA STUDENTS	FOR DACA STUDENTS ONLY
Grand Rapids Community College	Oakland Community College
Lake Michigan College	Washtenaw Community College
Mott Community College	Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Macomb Community College	Schoolcraft College
Muskegon Community College	

Paying for college

PUBLIC COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES IN MICHIGAN FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

The National For Higher Education for the Public Good Education and the Kresge Foundation evaluated which Michigan public colleges and universities have the most inclusive policies and procedures for admitting, funding, and supporting undocumented and DACAmented students. **Fortunately, many colleges and universities do provide in-state tuition for undocumented and DACA students, and some even offer need-based financial aid.**

The institutions were evaluated on the inclusivity of their admission, residency, and financial aid policies as well as the amount of support available to students when once they arrived on campus. For the more specific information about schools in Michigan and their policies regarding undocumented students, please visit The [uLEAD \(University Leaders for Educational Access and Diversity\) website](#).

If you are ever unsure about whether you are eligible for in-state tuition or financial aid from a specific university, please take a moment to reach out to someone at that campus for advice. And remember that it's usually worth getting another opinion from someone else on that campus if you need to.

Michigan's public universities are diverse enough to offer something for every student, whether that's the urban, suburban, or rural environment you're seeking, a research experience, or a small liberal arts program. You can live on or off campus or even commute from home, and major in one of hundreds of majors, with advisors ready to help steer you. Best of all, with financial aid, public universities are on average 40% cheaper for students and families than the full published price.

FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ¹¹

SCHOOL	IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS? (If yes, that means you just have to fulfill state residency requirements and graduate from a Michigan high school; citizenship status, green card, visa, etc. does not matter)	SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?
Central Michigan University	Yes	Contact the admissions office at cmuadmit@cmich.edu for more information
Eastern Michigan University	Yes	Contact the admissions office at undergraduate_admissions@emich.edu for more information

¹¹. Last updated 03/29/2019

Paying for college

TOP PUBLIC COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES IN MICHIGAN FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

SCHOOL	IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?	SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?
Ferris State University	Yes	Specific resources and support for undocumented students provided through Center for Latin@Studies. Contact KayleeMoreno@ferris.edu
Grand Valley State University	Yes	Contact Adriana Almanza for specific support as an undocumented/DACA student
Lake Superior State University	Some; includes only citizens of North American countries	Contact the admissions office at admissions@lssu.edu for more information
Michigan State University	Yes	Contact the Office of the Registrar at (517) 432-3488, Feeclass@msu.edu or visit the In-State Tuition Status page for more information
Michigan Technological University	No, but eligible for merit-based financial aid	Contact the admissions office mtu4u@mtu.edu for more information
Northern Michigan University	Yes	Contact Admissions at (906) 227-2650 or gdaniels@nmu.edu for more information

Paying for college

TOP PUBLIC COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES IN MICHIGAN FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES		
SCHOOL	IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?	SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?
Oakland University	Yes	Contact the admissions office at oakuniv@oakland.edu for more information
Saginaw Valley State University	Yes	Please contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@svsu.edu for more information
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Yes (If student qualifies under attendance residency pathway.)	Specific resources and support for undocumented and DACA students available here and here
University of Michigan-Dearborn	Yes (If student qualifies under attendance residency pathway.)	Contact the admissions office at umd-admissions@umich.edu for more information
University of Michigan-Flint	Yes (If student qualifies under attendance residency pathway.)	Specific resources for DACA and undocumented students available here
Wayne State University	Yes	Apply for in-state tuition as a DACA or undocumented here and email ESP@wayne.edu for help
Western Michigan University	Yes	Specific support and financial aid for DACA and undocumented students available here

Paying for college

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS IN MICHIGAN FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITIES		
SCHOOL	IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?	SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED & DACA STUDENTS?
Albion College	Yes	Albion provides a tuition scholarship for all DACA students requiring them to only pay for room and board to attend. Additional information here.
Alma College	Yes (One tuition rate for all students).	Hispanic Coalition. We offer scholarships and need based aid for DACA students
Andrews University	Yes, they have the same tuition rate for all students	Specific resources, support, and scholarships for undocumented and DACA students available here
Aquinas College	Information available from their website	Undocumented students are able to fill out a financial aid estimator to determine any availability of institutional money outside of academic scholarships
College for Creative Studies	Yes, they have the same tuition rate for all students	No specific resources
Cornerstone University	Yes	Unknown
Madonna University	Yes, they have the same tuition rate for all students	No specific resources

Paying for college

ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID				
	U.S. Citizen	Legal Permanent Resident	Other Immigration Status	DACA or Undocumented
Federal Aid (including grants, loans, and work study)	Yes	Yes	Refugee Asylee Cuban-Haitian Entrant Conditional Entrant (before 4/1/80) Parolee (1yr+) T-visa or applicants with HHS T-visa eligibility Letter VAWA "battered immigrant" Citizen of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or Republic of Palau	No
State of Michigan Aid (including scholarships, grants, loans and other resources)	Yes	Yes	Refugee Asylee Cuban-Haitian Entrant Conditional Entrant (before 4/1/80) Parolee (1yr+) T-visa VAWA "battered immigrant" Citizen of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or Republic of Palau	No, but DACA students may have employment opportunities on some campuses
In-State Tuition in Michigan	Yes	Generally, yes	Depends on school	Depends on school (see tables on pg. 20-24)
Private Loans	Yes	Generally, yes	Depends on lender; may require U.S. cosigner	Depends on lender; may require U.S. cosigner
Institutional Aid	Yes	Generally, yes	Depends on institution	Depends on institution

Looking for help?

Visit the websites of the sponsors of this Guide for an updated list of scholarships available to undocumented students. This list can change and will be updated accordingly.

Contact [One Michigan for Immigrant Youth](#) if:

- 1 a counselor or teacher says you can't go to college because of your immigration status
- 2 a university or college says you can't apply, or
- 3 you're having problems filling out applications.

JOIN ONE MICHIGAN

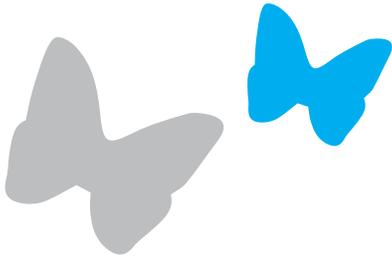
[One Michigan](#) is an undocumented youth-led immigrant rights organization. Its mission is to provide immigrant youth and allies the space, training, and opportunity to make a difference in the lives of immigrants all over Michigan. They work to organize youth leaders in Detroit and across the state and believe that organizing communities is the first step in protecting the rights of immigrants across the state of Michigan.

College is not out the question. Every day, undocumented students are beating the odds and enrolling in college. Many of the

undocumented members of One Michigan are enrolled in college and can help guide you through the process. They continue to fight for your education and for your rights.

Some of the work that One Michigan does includes rallies, trips to Washington, D.C., anti-deportation campaigns, community service, book drives for immigrant detainees, know-your-rights workshops, DACA renewal workshops, college workshops, scholarships, and college application support.





Acknowledgments

The Undocumented Students' Guide to College is made possible by the following supporters:

ONE MICHIGAN

[One Michigan](#) and its members are dedicated to fighting for immigrant youth rights and we continue to grow.

MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

As the leader in the state's college access movement, MCAN is committed to increasing Michigan's college readiness, participation and completion rates, particularly among low-income students, first-generation college going students, and students of color. Visit [MCAN's Tools and Resources for assistance](#).

MICHIGAN IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CENTER

The Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) is a resource center for advocates seeking equal justice for Michigan's immigrants. MIRC works to build a thriving Michigan where immigrant communities experience equity and belonging. [Visit our website](#) for more information.

NATIONAL FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

[The National Forum](#) exists to support higher education's role as a public good. In this pursuit, the Forum utilizes research and other tools to create and disseminate knowledge that addresses higher education issues of public importance. More specifically, the Forum has investigated ways to increase access to institutions of higher education for undocumented students in Michigan.

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