ICIRR ILLINOIS COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

IMMIGRANT YOUTH JUSTICE LEAGUE
Undocumented. Unafraid. Unapologetic.

EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION

ILLINOIS DREAM ACT

AN UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE

Governor Pat Quinn signs the Illinois DREAM Act into law on August 1, 2011, at Chicago's Benito Juarez High School.

ILLINOIS DREAM ACT

An Undocumented Student's Guide to College

Updated March 2018

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01 INTRODUCTION

The Urban Institute estimates that 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools every year. The messy reality of global migration poses major uncertainties and obstacles for many students when it comes to college admissions, financial aid, and enrollment processes. The purpose of this guide is to help undocumented students navigate and access higher education in the United States.

The Importance of the Illinois DREAM Act

The Illinois DREAM Act is a significant step forward for undocumented students. Although the Act does not provide a legal pathway to citizenship, it recognizes the right of undocumented youth to invest in their education. The Act attempts to help undocumented students access information, resources, and financial aid in their pursuit of higher education. In addition, the Act requires that high school college counselors be better trained to help undocumented students reach their educational goals.

Education is a right for all people, regardless of their status. In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* that public schools are prohibited from denying immigrant students access to a public K-12 education. Public schools and school personnel are also prohibited from adopting policies or taking actions that deny students access to education based on their immigration status.

Educating ourselves is not merely something we 'must do' to attain a better lifestyle; it is an opportunity for political engagement which we have the right to do. The process of pursuing higher education may be frustrating, but it CAN be done. Continuing education can help us achieve our life goals, open the door to new opportunities, and form lasting friendships with people we meet along the way.

In 2003, the State of Illinois passed bill HB 60, making in-state tuition available for undocumented youth at public colleges and universities. In Illinois you have the right to go to college, regardless of your immigration status.

It is important to remember that these educational opportunities have not always been open to undocumented youth, and they are still not open everywhere in the United States. Many states, unfortunately, remain hostile towards undocumented immigrants. As of 2018, sixteen states extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented youth through state legislation.

In 2003, the State of Illinois passed bill HB 60, making in-state tuition available for undocumented youth at public colleges and universities. **You have the right to go to college, no matter your immigration status.**

The Importance of Speaking Up

The Illinois DREAM Act was passed in May 2011, after months of meetings, negotiations, and visits to Springfield by hundreds of undocumented youth, community members, leaders, and organizations. Together, we pushed and lobbied legislators tirelessly to pass the bill.

In order to make sure these rights and earned opportunities continue to be respected, we all need to speak up. As an undocumented youth, you also need to speak up to make sure you are not denied your right to an education.

When you speak up, when you act, and when you let people know what you need, you can create change. But if no one knows about your status, no one can give you meaningful help or advice to guide your pursuit of higher education.

This may mean, if you are comfortable, coming out to your college counselor about your status. Know that counselors may not legally ask about the immigration status of a student, so you will have to be the one to initiate the conversation. Counselors will be better able to help you if they are aware of your status.

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We hope this guide helps you navigate some of the complicated and confusing aspects of accessing higher education. Please note that, though we have tried our best to gather useful information, we may not have answered all of the questions you have. Let us know if there is anything more that you would like us to address, or if you would like to share any tips you have learned from your own personal experience. Good luck!
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02 HB 60 & THE ILLINOIS DREAM ACT: THE FACTS

HB 60: In-State Tuition

Passed in May 2003, HB 60 bill was a significant win for young immigrants in Illinois. The bill qualifies eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates when attending public Illinois colleges or universities.

In order to be eligible for HB 60 in-state tuition rates, students must meet the following requirements:

1. The student has resided with her/her parent or guardian while attending public or private high school in Illinois.
2. The student has graduated from a public or private high school in Illinois or received a GED from Illinois.
3. The student has attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years prior to graduating from high school or receiving the GED.
4. For individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States, the student provides the university with an affidavit stating his/her intention to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States as soon as he/she is eligible to do so. *[See Appendix A]*

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. Additionally, two states, Oklahoma and Rhode Island, extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through decisions by their local Board of Regents.

States that offer in-state tuition rates for undocumented students:

California • Colorado • Connecticut • Florida • Illinois • Kansas • Maryland • Minnesota • Nebraska • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • Oregon • Texas • Utah • Washington

Illinois DREAM Act: The Facts

This legislation made Illinois the first state in the country to create a private scholarship fund for undocumented youth. The Act also eases the path to higher education for undocumented youth, 65% of whom come from households that earn 200% under the poverty line. While not comparable to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the passage of the bill is an incredible victory that lays a foundation for other states to follow.

The Illinois DREAM Act:

- **Allows anyone with a taxpayer number, including undocumented students, to participate in the State Treasurer's College Savings Pool and the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan.** Both of these programs allow families of DREAM youths to plan ahead and invest and save for their children's college education. *[See page 6]*
- **Requires high school college counselors to be better prepared to advise undocumented students and children of immigrants on their access to higher education.** This ensures that undocumented students receive correct information about opportunities available to them after high school. High school college counselors will receive additional training incorporated into existing training courses.
- **Establishes the Illinois DREAM Fund to provide scholarships and financial aid to undocumented students.** The scholarships are funded entirely by contributions from private donors and organizations.

In order to qualify for the benefits of the Illinois DREAM Act, students must meet the following requirements:

1. The student has resided with her/her parent or guardian while attending public or private high school in Illinois.
2. The student has attended public or private school in Illinois for at least 3 years and received a high school diploma or GED from Illinois.
3. The student has at least one parent who immigrated to the United States.

As mentioned on the previous page, the Illinois DREAM Act makes certain college savings programs available to immigrant youths. Listed below are three college savings programs accessible to undocumented students in Illinois.

Illinois State Treasurer's College Savings Pool

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office administers two college savings plans available to immigrant youth: **Bright Start** and **Bright Directions**.

The Bright Start and Bright Directions programs are fairly similar: they both allow families of undocumented students to save money to help fund their children's future higher education. Once the account has been set up, the family can start paying into it over time. When the student enters college, he or she can then withdraw from the account to pay for tuition.

Unlike Bright Start, the Bright Directions program allows families to have more flexibility with regard to how they wish to invest their money and according to their personal risk tolerance.

Illinois Prepaid Tuition Plan

College Illinois! is a college savings program for prepaid college tuition run by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

The College Illinois! program allows an undocumented student's family to negotiate a set tuition with a designated college or university in Illinois. The student's family then sets up an account with College Illinois! and makes monthly payments into it, which are transferred directly to the designated college or university. In this way, families can prepay for their children's future higher education at today's tuition price.

Note: Undocumented immigrants do not need to have a Social Security Number (SSN) to access these college savings and prepaid tuition programs, but they do require their own Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). Anyone who has a valid ITIN issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) can open an account and draw upon it to pay for college.

The ITIN is a nine-digit number beginning with the digit '9' and formatted like the SSN (i.e. 9XX-XX-XXXX). It is used for tax purposes for certain residents, nonresidents, their spouses, and their dependents. **Remember, an ITIN cannot be used for employment or for FAFSA.**

If you do not already have your own ITIN, you can obtain one by filling out the W-7 IRS form. This form can be downloaded online at ***www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf.fw7.pdf***. You can find a guide to the ITIN application on the IRS website ***www.irs.gov***.

>> Bright Start
www.brightstartsavings.com
PO Box 5288
Denver, CO 80217
1.800.432.7444

>> Bright Directions
www.brightdirections.com
PO Box 82623
Lincoln, NE 68501
866.722.7283

>> College Illinois!
www.collegeillinois.org
ISAC.529info@isac.illinois.gov
529 Prepaid Tuition Program
PO Box 19291
Springfield, IL 62794

At a Chicago New Americans Rally on April 30, 2011 in support of the Illinois DREAM Act.

03 DACA: THE FACTS

What is DACA?

The **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program was created in 2012 by President Obama. Under DACA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will refrain from deporting certain undocumented youth who arrived in the United States as children.

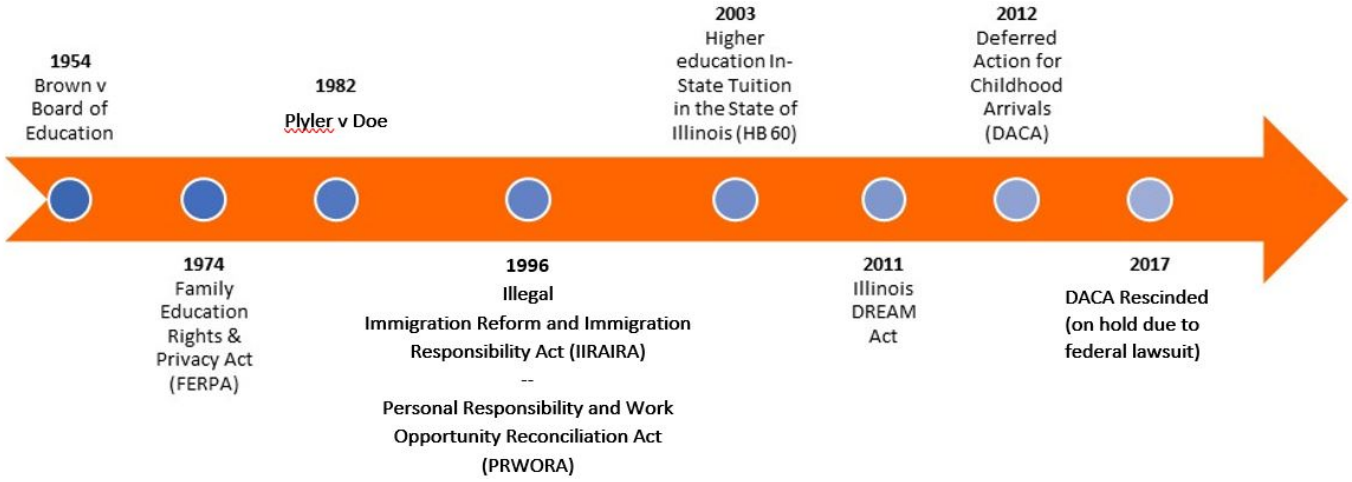
DACA grants eligible undocumented youth the right to reside within the U.S. It is important to remember that **DACA is temporary and does not provide a path to permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship**. Those who are accepted into DACA are issued a two-year permit. At the end of the two years, an undocumented youth may apply to renew the permit if he or she wishes to extend his or her stay in the country.

In Illinois, both DACA recipients and other undocumented immigrants are able to apply for scholarship and financial aid from the Illinois DREAM Fund, provided they meet the requirements outlined on page 5.

In September 2017, the Trump Administration rescinded DACA. However, due to federal court orders, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has resumed accepting requests from current and previous DACA grantees to renew their DACA protection.

USCIS is not accepting requests from individuals who have never previously been granted deferred action under DACA. **Current DACA recipients who successfully renew will have two years before their work permits expire. As of now,** no pathway to citizenship or replacement for DACA has been made into law.

Immigrant Senstive Laws



What is the DREAM Act?

The DREAM Act is a bipartisan bill that would provide a road to a green card and eventual U.S. citizenship for people who either are undocumented or have DACA or temporary protected status (TPS), and who graduate from U.S. high schools and attend college, enter the workforce, or enlist in the military. Currently, most DACA recipients are unable to get lawful permanent resident (LPR) status or U.S. citizenship and are thus in limbo with respect to their future in the only country they have known as home since they were children.

Currently this legislation is being negotiated in Congress and with the Trump administration. It is unclear if this legislation, if passed, will provide the same legal rights as it would as originally written. For more information, contact Fred Tsao, at ftsao@icirr.org.

04 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ?

1. Can I move to Illinois and benefit from the Illinois DREAM Act?

No, in order to qualify for the Illinois DREAM Act you must have attended school for at least three years in Illinois and received the equivalent of a high school diploma or GED.

2. Does the Illinois DREAM Act provide me with a path to citizenship?

No, the Illinois DREAM Act does not provide a path to citizenship because citizenship laws are a federal matter. Nor does DACA provide you with a path to citizenship; however, if you receive deferred action you are granted the right to reside in the U.S. lawfully for a renewable two-year period.

The federal DREAM Act, which would provide undocumented youth with a path to citizenship if they complete two years of college or military service, was first brought up in the Senate in 2001 by Senators Dick Durbin of Illinois and Orrin Hatch of Utah. Since then, the bill has been reintroduced several times but has yet to pass. As an interim solution, President Obama created the DACA program in 2012.

3. When can I apply to the Illinois DREAM Fund for scholarships?

Past application cycles have opened in early December and closed in mid March. There is currently no information about dates for future application cycles, so be sure to visit the Illinois DREAM Fund Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ILDREAMFund) for updates.

The Illinois DREAM Fund currently only provides scholarships for undergraduate studies and does not fund graduate and PhD programs.

4. If I qualify for the Illinois DREAM Act and/or DACA, do I also qualify to receive state funding for higher education in Illinois?

No, undocumented youth are currently ineligible for state-funded aid in Illinois.

However, federal law allows individual state legislatures to choose whether or not to extend state funding for higher education to undocumented immigrants. So far only California, Texas, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Washington offer financial aid to their undocumented students.

Advocacy efforts are currently underway in Illinois as community members and organizations are exploring ways to expand state aid to undocumented students.

5. Does applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) make me less safe?

ITINS are issued by the IRS to individuals who do not qualify for a Social Security Number (SSN), such as undocumented immigrants and foreign investors. The IRS does not share the information they gather with the Department of Homeland Security. Therefore, applying for an ITIN will not compromise your safety.

6. Do I need a SSN/ITIN to apply for a scholarship from the Illinois DREAM Fund?

No, the application for scholarships or financial aid from the Illinois DREAM Fund does not require students to provide a SSN or ITIN.

However, in order to enroll in college savings programs in Illinois – including Bright Start, Bright Directions, and College Illinois! – you and your parents must have either an ITIN or SSN.

Note: If you are DACA recipient, you may be eligible to apply for a SSN. For more information, visit: www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deferred_action.pdf.

7. Can I still apply for DACA?

USCIS is not accepting any new applications for DACA. As of this writing, individuals whose DACA is current or expired on or after September 5, 2016, can apply to renew; individuals whose DACA expired before that date can file new initial applications to get DACA back.

8. Do I need to come out as undocumented, in order to be eligible for resources available to undocumented youth?

No, you do not need to reveal your status as an undocumented immigrant in order to access resources catered to undocumented youths.

That said, undocumented students who confide in teachers and counselors whom they trust have access to more resources and information than those who stay quiet.

Put simply, teachers, counselors, and other members of your community will be unable to address your specific needs without knowledge of your situation.

9. What should I do if my financial aid/admissions advisor requires me to fill out the FAFSA ?

If your financial aid/admissions advisor suggests you fill out the FAFSA and you do not have a Social Security Number, you can fill it out ***but DO NOT submit it***. See section 6 (page 13) for more information about the FAFSA.

Remember, ***undocumented students do not qualify for FAFSA and submitting FAFSA forms with false information is against the law.***

10. My high school counselor told me that I am ineligible for higher education because of my immigration status. Is this true?

No, undocumented students in Illinois are not prohibited from attending public universities. Furthermore, undocumented students in Illinois also qualify for private scholarships to pursue higher education.

The Illinois DREAM Act requires all high school counselors to be trained and prepared to advise undocumented students and children of immigrants about their options with regard to higher education. Unfortunately, not all high school counselors have appropriate experience and the most up-to-date information to help undocumented students.

We encourage you to contact any of the organization listed in **Appendix C** for more resources and information.

ICIRR Leaders with Illinois DREAM Act House Sponsor Representative Edward Acevedo.

We hope this helps you navigate some of the complicated and confusing aspects of your immigration status and your access to higher education.

If you have any additional questions, please email **ftsao@icirr.org**.

05 PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

Education is a Right!

Under the *Plyler v. Doe* Supreme Court ruling, in the United States **all people are entitled to a free education from Kindergarten to Grade 12.** During these years, all students are entitled to use their school's counseling services, too. But what happens when students graduate from high school?

Accessing higher education as an undocumented student can seem complicated and difficult, but it *IS* possible. A college degree stands to benefit you in the long run: it will open your door to greater job opportunities, and allow you to form professional networks and relationships that will help you as you strive towards your goals.

No one can take your education away from you –it is your right!

Preparing for College in High School (and Earlier)

The process of preparing for college begins early: most students start researching colleges and their admissions requirements early in their high school career, if not beforehand. Whether you are in high school or junior high, you should start thinking about going to college and what you need to do to best prepare yourself.

Listed below are some cues to help you start thinking about preparing for college.

1 **Talk to your high school counselor** about preparing for college. He or she will be able to advise you on what courses to take at school and help you begin your search for scholarships. Be sure to look for scholarships that are not limited to U.S. citizens and legal residents only.

2 **Take advantage of college prep courses.** Many colleges and universities give college credit to students who have taken Advanced Placement (AP) courses and received good scores on the exams. College credit will ease your requirements for graduation and may even allow you to graduate early. Additionally, AP courses can boost your scholarship application.

3 **Work hard in school.** Your Grade Point Average (GPA) will be evaluated by college admissions officers when deciding whether or not you are a good fit for their program. Maintaining a high GPA throughout high school will increase your chances of being accepted into college as well as securing a private scholarship.

4 **Study for the standardized tests.** Most high schools offer SAT and/or ACT prep courses to students in their junior and senior year. Take advantage of these courses to help you prepare for the exams. Your standardized test scores will be considered in your college and scholarship applications. Research the colleges and universities to which you are considering applying and see if they require either the SAT or ACT. Plan to take the tests accordingly.

5 **Get involved** in extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Colleges and universities seek students who are involved in their communities. Internships, sports, community service, and clubs will all provide you with valuable experiences that set you apart from other college applicants. Certain scholarships are also reserved for students who demonstrate commitment and aptitude for a particular activity or service interest.

6 **Research the schools and universities** that you are considering applying to. **Appendix B** details admission requirements for colleges and universities in Illinois. Make sure the college or university offers your major of interest and has a student body that you would feel comfortable being a part of.

>> BY THE NUMBERS[1]:

11-12 million undocumented people live in the United States.

1.8 million immigrants live in Illinois.

500,000 in Illinois have no visa or legal permanent residency.

65,000 graduate from high school every year nationwide.

1. Source: Pew Hispanic Center, www.pewresearch.org/pubs/1190/portrait-unauthorized-immigrants-states

7 **Build relationships with your teachers** and mentors in the community. Most colleges and universities require applicants to provide a recommendation from at least one schoolteacher, and often accept additional recommendations from student's sports coaches or mentors from their extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Teachers and mentors who know you well and have a good relationship with you are more likely to write you a glowing recommendation letter for college.

8 **Consider your finances**. Speak with your parents to understand what your financial situation is with respect to paying for college. If need be, research what scholarships, financial aid packages, and private loans are available to you. More information about how to finance your education is included in the next chapter.

Immigrant Youth College Fair in Cicero in 2010 hosted by the Immigrant Youth Justice League and Nuestra Voz.

What Type of College Should You Attend?

Cost is a major factor when considering what type of college you would like to attend.

Community colleges are usually less expensive than universities and typically offer similar academic courses. Students are often able to transfer out to a four-year institution after attending a community college.

That said, **private colleges** are not out-of-reach. In fact, several private colleges are able to provide undocumented students with more funding than they would receive from public colleges and universities.

Some private colleges, however, treat undocumented youth as international students. Be sure to research individual colleges and universities and learn about their policies towards undocumented students because you may need to fill out the international student application.

When considering **out-of-state colleges** keep in mind that not all states embrace immigrant populations.

Page 15 has a table detailing the average costs for different types of academic institutions.

The Affidavit

Under HB 60, in order to qualify for in-state tuition rates students must have

- Resided with their parents while attending public or private high school in Illinois
- Graduated from a public or private high school or received the GED in the state of Illinois and
- Attended high school in Illinois for at least 3 years prior to graduating from high school or receiving the GED.

In addition, students must agree to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Therefore, colleges and universities in Illinois will ask undocumented students to sign an affidavit to confirm their eligibility for in-state tuition. The affidavit is an easy-to-read, one-sided document that is shared between the college or university and the student.

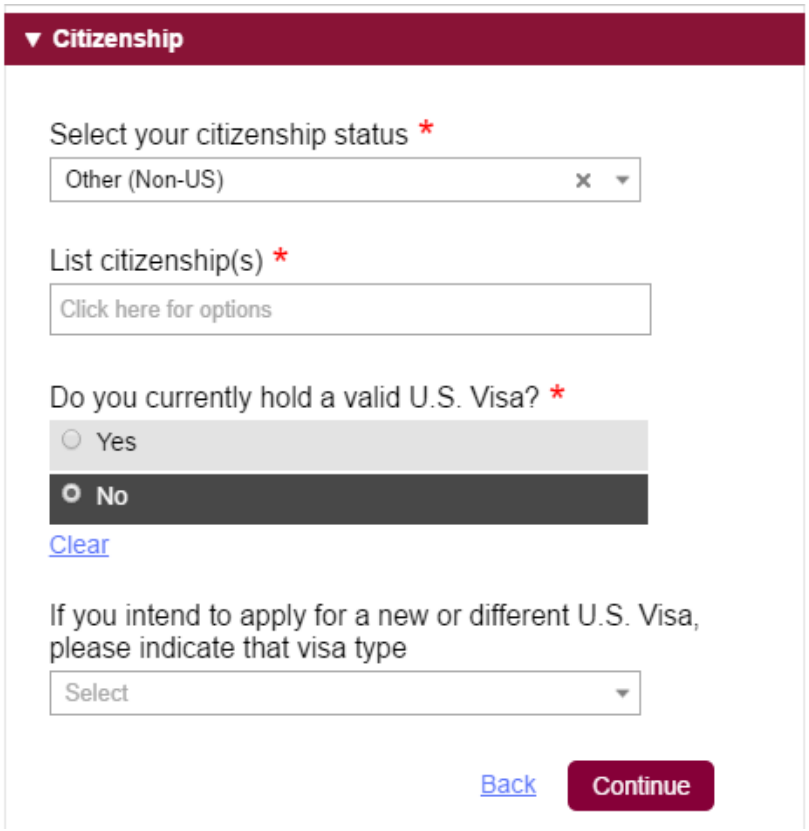
Rest assured that the affidavit will not reveal your citizenship status. Forms like these are considered to be a part of a student's records and so the information disclosed remains confidential under the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**. Similarly, you should not be concerned about privacy when revealing your citizenship status on any college form or application.

To give you a better idea of what the affidavit entails, we have included an example of an affidavit from Northeastern Illinois University in **Appendix A**.

How does my citizenship status affect my application?

Citizenship status can in some cases impact colleges' admissions decisions. For the most part, however, the main impact of your citizenship status will be on your financial aid options. Not everyone requires financial aid to attend college, but for the many student who do, financial aid availability can have a huge impact on shaping your college plans.

When you apply to a number of colleges as an undocumented student living in the U.S., these colleges may differ in how they consider your application and how they group you as a student. Some colleges may consider you an international applicant because you're a citizen of a country other than the U.S.; if they do, you'll be subject to any regulations that the college enforces for international applicants. Others may consider you a domestic applicant, in which case you'll be treated more like applicants who are U.S. citizens.



Applying via Common App

1. If you are applying to a school that requires you to complete the Common Application, also known as the Common App, please choose the third answer to the citizenship questions, Not a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.

2. Please mark the intended visa status question as Unknown and fill out other questions as appropriate. It is better to give the bare minimum information then to lie about your legal status.

3. You also do not need to provide further information for the Common App. A University should not ask you about your status but if they do, you are not obligated to respond. Seek help from your college counselor when going through this process.

Research Schools!

Contact the colleges you're interested in for more details about how they'll consider your application.You can look to Appendix B for contact information for Illinois schools. if you're concerned about privacy, remember that it's possible to call and ask about general admissions and financial-aid policies without giving your name.

06 FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

The FAFSA & Applications for Financial Aid

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is a form 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. If you are an undocumented student:

- **DO NOT** submit a FAFSA form to the government.
- **DO NOT** provide any false information on applications for college, university, or financial aid.

What determines eligibility for state and federal financial aid programs is the immigration status of the student, and NOT that of his or her 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.

- **Undocumented parents** should use 000-00-0000 as their SSN on the FAFSA. The FAFSA will be rejected if parents submit an ITIN.
- **Undocumented parents** cannot request a PIN number to sign the FAFSA electronically. They must print the application, sign it, and send it by mail.

Remember:

- College and university applications will never require you to provide a SSN; ***it is optional***.
- A SSN ***is*** required to complete the FAFSA.
- **It is against the law to use a SSN that is not your own or false.**

Be aware that some private scholarships may ask you to submit a FAFSA to prove financial need. Private scholarships ask this because the FAFSA may be their only method of measuring financial aid. In this situation, print out the application and send it to the private scholarship directly; DO NOT send a copy to the government.

In general, consult an admissions officer from the college or university where you are applying for advice before submitting any documentation.

Scholarships

1. The Illinois DREAM Fund

The Illinois DREAM Fund provides financial aid to eligible undocumented students in Illinois (see page 5). Raised entirely through private and in-kind donations, the Illinois DREAM Fund is currently only used to fund undergraduate degrees from colleges and universities in Illinois and across the United States.

To qualify for scholarship or financial aid, applicants must be either incoming freshman or current undergraduates at a college or university in the U.S. In addition, applicants must have a GPA of at least 2.5 out of 4.0. Finally, applicants must complete an electronic application. Typically, the application opens in early December and closes in mid-March.

Scholarships and financial aid from the Illinois DREAM Fund can be used to cover the cost of tuition as well as institutional fees, books, student health insurance, and any other educational expenses that you may have.

2. Private Scholarships

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

3. Private Colleges and Universities

Many private schools are able to provide need-based scholarships and financial aid to students, irrespective of their immigration status.

This is in contrast to public colleges and universities which, 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.

It is worth asking the colleges where you are applying about the private scholarships they offer and what the requirements for eligibility are. You can even ask about what resources are available for undocumented students.

See **Appendix B** for more specific information about merit-based and need-based assistance offered at colleges and universities in Illinois.

4. Community Scholarships

Many communities have created their own scholarships to cover the cost of tuition or books to help college students in the neighborhood. Look into different community centers, churches, and local schools to find out if they have scholarships available to you. Also try and apply to as many scholarships as possible, no matter how much (or little) the financial award is, because scholarship money adds up quickly!

Tips for Scholarship Applications:

List your accomplishments

Before you start, make a list of your accomplishments so that you can refer to 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 that 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 that 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 that 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 that some scholarships have an appeal process in which you may receive additional aid under special circumstances.

Support Equal Opportunity for State Financial Aid at Public Institutions

At an Immigrant Youth Justice League rally in Chicago in 2010. Contact an organization near you and get involved!

At the moment, undocumented youth are not eligible for state-based financial aid in Illinois. Consequently, public colleges and universities in Illinois cannot offer state-funded scholarships to undocumented students.

However, advocacy efforts are currently underway to extend state financial aid to many residents of Illinois – including undocumented immigrants. This would grant 60,000 youth access to state funding as they pursue higher education.

Federal law allows individual state legislatures to choose whether to extend state financial aid to undocumented youth. Unfortunately, to date only 5 states have chosen to do so: California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington.

Contact an organization near you to find out how **you** can join the advocacy efforts in Illinois to **help undocumented students achieve their educational goals, support their families, and give back to society**.
(See Appendix C)

Average Budget For Undergraduates By Institution Type

Institution Type	Tuition and Fees	Room & Board	Books & Supplies	Transportation & Personal Expenses	Total (average/per year)
Public Two-Year In-District College	$3,562	--	$1,146	$3,242	**$7949**
Public Two-Year Out-of-State College	$3564	$7,705	$1,146	$3,242	**$15,657**
Public Four-Year In-State College	$9,139	$9,804	$1,146	$3,242	**$23,331**
Public Four-Year Out-of-State College	$22,958	$9,804	$1,146	$3,242	**$37,150**

Sources:
1. College Board, www.trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-sector-state-time.
2. CollegeDATA, www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_payarticle_tmpl.jhtml?articleId=10064.

What Are My Financial Aid Options?

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 you meet Illinois residency requirements.	Yes, if you meet Illinois residency requirements.	Depends on your visa type. Not eligible for HB 60.	Yes, if eligible under HB 60.	Yes, if eligible under HB 60.
Government Loans	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Private Loans	Yes	Yes	Yes, but need U.S. citizen or permanent resident cosigner.	Yes, but need U.S. citizen or permanent resident cosigner.	Yes, but need U.S. citizen or permanent resident cosigner.
Government Grants	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Institutional Aid	Yes	Yes	Depends on your visa type and the school you attend.	Depends on school you attend.	Depends on school you attend.
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.

Questions to Ask Admissions Officers & Financial Aid Advisors

Speaking directly with an admissions officer or financial aid advisor will be extremely valuable to you. When you call an admissions or financial aid office be sure to 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 him/her:

Admissions:

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

Financial Aid:

- Are undocumented students eligible for any institutional financial aid? If so, are there any additional forms I need to complete?
- Do you offer fee or tuition waivers and how may I apply for them?
- How can I 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 I submit any additional forms?
- If I am awarded a scholarship, what must I do to keep it? Will I lose the scholarship if I get poor grades?
- Are these scholarships valid for the entire duration a student is enrolled at your school? What if I take 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 me because of my immigration status?
- Does applying to this school/major require a background check?
- After graduation, can I work with this type of degree? Or would I need to get a background check, certificate, or state licensure that I would be ineligible for because of my 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 you can do to ease your financial burden:

» Crowdfunding Online crowdfunding websites are useful for targeting a large number of people at one time. Most websites allow you to post a short story about yourself and your funding mission to persuade others to support your cause. You can also post a personalized crowdfunding link to your Facebook page, Twitter, and other social media platforms that you may use to connect with your friends and family. Don't forget to ask them to share the link with their contacts, too!

» Fundraisers Bake sales, car washes, and community dances are all great ways to fundraise money to create your own scholarship. Be sure to publicize your event on social media and invite your friends, families, and teachers. You could ask for in-kind donations like sports shirts or gift baskets from people in your community and raffle these off during the fundraiser. Ticket sales from the raffle could be used towards purchasing your textbooks or to cover other living expenses while you're at college.

» Donation Letters Draft a donation letter asking family, friends, and local businesses to support you financially to help you achieve your educational goals. Be sure to specify why you are pursuing higher education, what you hope to do with your education, and outline the financial struggles you foresee as you work towards your 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. Be wary that private loans usually come with high interest rates.

Whichever method you choose to pursue, be sure to thank your donors and anyone else who helps you!

07 WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

Celebrating the launch of ICIRR's volunteer run Family Support Hotline.

Contact a community organization near you if you run into any difficulties regarding your immigration status as you navigate higher education in the United States, such as

- A high school counselor who tells you that you cannot go to college
- A university that says you cannot apply to their institution as an undocumented student
- A public university in Illinois that will not extend in-state tuition rates to you.

You can find a list of community organizations to reach out to for guidance in **Appendix C**.

If you are an undocumented student and you end up in deportation proceedings or if you are in urgent need of help regarding your immigration status, **call the emergency ICIRR Family Support Hotline: (855) 435-7693**.

The hotline is designed to help immigrant families across Illinois in emergency situations. Please note that the hotline will not provide you with legal advice; however, it will refer callers to lawyers and community organizations trusted by ICIRR.

Other services provided include referrals to other social services that may be available, citizenship services and ministry referral.

Appendix A: Sample Affidavit

Northeastern

ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

AFFIDAVIT FORM FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR RESIDENCY TUITION ACCORDING TO PUBLIC ACT 93-0007

_____ _____

Student Name (Please Print) NEIU ID Number

In order to qualify for in-state tuition, you must submit an official high school transcript if you were admitted as a transfer student. The high school transcript is required for the verification process. In-state tuition is not granted unless you meet all qualifications as stipulated in Public Act 93-0007 of the Illinois General Assembly.

This form will be used for the sole purpose of assessing the assignment of in-state tuition and has no impact on the admissions process. ***This form and high school transcript must be received within 30 calendar days from the date of assessment of tuition or the date designated in the official university calendar as that upon which instruction begins for the academic period for which the tuition is payable or the student loses the rights to change or adjust tuition for the semester in question.***

INSTRUCTIONS

You must answer each of the questions below and sign your name in the Affidavit section. Submit the completed and sighed document and high school transcript to the Admissions Review and Processing Office. Please allow 1-2 weeks for review and reassignment of tuition if eligible.

1. Did you reside with your parent(s) while attending a public or private high school in Illinois?
   [ ] Yes [ ] No
2. Did you graduate from a public or private high school or receive the equivalent of a high school diploma (GED) in the state of Illinois?
   [ ] Yes [ ] No
3. Did you attend high school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma?
   [ ] Yes [ ] No

I hereby swear that the information contained herein this document is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I hereby swear that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at my earliest opportunity to do so.

_____ _____

Student Signature Date of Signature

Office Use:
Resident Tuition Approved [ ] Yes [ ] No Staff Initials _____ Date_____

Source: *http://neiu.edu/future-students/sites/neiu.edu.future-students/files/documents/sapaja2/Affidavit%20for%20Undocumented%20Students.pdf*

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Augustana College	**Ashley Allen** Admissions Counselor (309) 794-7574 ashleyallen@augustana.edu	Complete *Merit Scholarship Estimate Form* and an admissions staff will contact you to discuss a scholarship estimate.	Contact an admissions representative for information about applying for need-based assistance.	Choose "non-citizen."	Enter 000-00-0000. DACA recipients with a SSN should also enter 000-00-0000.	Can waive $35 application fee.
Aurora University	**Luke Kerber** *Freshman Admission Counselor* (630) 844-5293 lkerber@aurora.edu	Between $3000 and $13,000 based on GPA and ACT scores. Music and theatre scholarships also available.	Contact Luke Kerber to request the *Institutional Aid Application* for aid that exceeds $5000.	Indicate country of birth and mark permanent resident.	Leave blank or put 000-00-0000.	Application fee waiver available for $25 application fee.The application fee is waived for all online applicants.
Benedictine University	**Admissions Office** (630) 829-6300	Between $1,000 and $14,100 per year. More info: http://www.ben.edu/admissions/undergraduate/freshman/scholarships.com	Determined based on information provided in admissions application.	Choose "other" and, if you would like, specify your specific status. A blank field is not accepted.	Enter 000-00-0000. A blank field is not accepted.	Call Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300 for information about how to waive application fee.
Bradley University	Admissions info. for undergraduates: (309) 677-1000 (800) 447-6460 admissions@bradley.edu	Between $16,000 and $34,000 over four years, based on academic performance. Use Scholarship Estimator.	None for undocumented students.	Mark "No, I am not a citizen."	Leave it blank.	All online applications are free.
Chicago State University	Masala Jackson Enrollment Specialist Freshmen (A - H) mhobbs@csu.edu 773-995-3820 773-995-2513 ug-admissions@csu.edu	Only for Latino students who meet criteria, including minimum of 18 ACT score and 3.0 GPA.	Complete application for the Latino Resource Center Scholarship. Latino Resource Center Contact: (773-995-2526 Email: LRC@csu.edu	Choose "Undocumented students."	Leave it blank. You will be issued a school ID number.	Can waive application fee, but signature page of application should be printed and mailed.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
College of DuPage	**Saraliz Jimenez** *Manager, Latino Outreach Center* (630) 942-3039 latinocenter@cod.edu	Scholarships available: Presidential Scholarship Board of Trustees Scholar Deans Scholars, Check website for more Awarded every year to a limited number of recipients.	None for undocumented students.	Leave it blank.	Call Admissions and Outreach at (630) 942-2380 to request an alternate number, which can then be entered into the SSN field on the admissions application only.	Fee waiver code available for veterans. Otherwise, additional documentation required for fee waiver to be considered.
College of Lake County	**Miguel Marino** *Recruitment Specialist* (847) 543-2429 mmarinocastillo@clcillinois.edu	Complete *CLC Foundation Application*. Contact: www.clcillinois.edu/undocumented	Complete *CLC Foundation Application*.	Choose "other."	Select box that you choose not to provide SSN.	Can request fee waiver.
Columbia College	**Precious Davis** *Assistant Director of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives* (312) 369-7719 pdavis@colum.edu	Between $1,000 and $12,000 per year, over four years, based on academic achievements, talent, or ability in student's intended major.	Contact an admissions counselor to navigate and plan for need-based aid. Can also call 312-369-7140	Choose "undocumented student."	No such field on admissions application.	$50 but Can request fee waiver through admissions application.
DePaul University	Admissions info. for undergraduates: http://emmapps.depaul.edu/counselorfinder/ to find an admissions counselor for your geographic location. Access the Depaul DREAMers Guide: https://offices.depaul.edu/diversity/advocacy/Documents/OIDE%20DREAM%20Resource%20Guide.pdf	Between $5,500 and $17,000 per year, which is renewable based on students' GPA.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Non-citizen" with an "unknown visa status." Will be asked to enter an international address, Use DePaul's address: 1 E. Jackson Blvd. Then, enter own address in U.S. address field.	Leave it blank.	Online application fee lower than paper application fee. Can request fee waiver

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Dominican University	**Glenn Hamilton** *Assistant VP of Enrollment Management* (708) 524-6795 hamilton@dom.edu	Between $4,000 and $17,500 per year, which is renewable based on GPA. For undocumented students who have the two highest merit scholarship levels (freshman or transfer), Dominican will provide grant/scholarship funding equivalent to the total gift aid of similar FAFSA eligible students at the university and attempt to find endowed/restricted resources to reduce the self-help expectation to no more than $500/month, based on a commuter budget.	None for undocumented students.	Leave it blank.	Enter 000-00-0000.	No application fee for online application.
Eastern Illinois University	**Erica Aguilar** *Admission Counselor* (217) 581-5027 esaguilar@eiu.edu	None for undocumented students.	None for undocumented students.	Can choose either "Undocumented student" or leave field blank.	Enter 000-00-0000.	Can request fee waiver to waive $30 application fee.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Elmhurst College	**Stephanie Levenson** *Director of Admissions* (630) 617-3354 slevenson@elmhurst.edu Check Latinos in Elmhurst College Page	Between $6,000 and $21,000 per year based on GPA and ACT score. An additional $2,000 awarded to students who qualify for higher academic scholarship.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non U.S. citizen or permanent resident" and list country of citizenship. Can leave visa section blank.	Not required for admissions application.	No application fee.
Illinois College	**Rick Bystry** *Senior Associate Director of Admissions* (217) 245-3030 rlbystry@mail.ic.edu	Between $10,000 and $18,000 per year based on academic background.	Contact Office of Admission for need-based financial aid.	Choose "non-citizen" or "other."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
Illinois Institute of Technology	**Leticia Moreno** *Office of Financial Aid* (312) 567-3422 lmoreno2@iit.edu	All incoming freshmen eligible for CAMRAS and CROWN merit-based scholarships.	Contact **Leticia Moreno** for institutional aid. (312) 567-3422 lmoreno2@iit.edu	Can disclose undocumented status in the Common Application.	Enter 000-00-0000.	No application fee.
Illinois State University	**Carla Cabrera** *Admissions Counselor* clabre@IllinoisState.edu (309) 438-3914 (direct) All admissions support staff is able to assist. (309) 438-2181 (main office)	Between $6,000 and $11,000 per year, which is renewable based on academic performance.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Undocumented ." Field cannot be blank.	Leave it blank.	$50 but High school counselors should complete counselor certification form to waive fee.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Illinois Wesleyan University	**Bob Geraty** *Interim Dean of Admissions* (309) 556-3031 bgeraty@iwu.edu	Merit scholarships are available based on GPA, test results, and rank. Typically, 75% of incoming candidates meet merit aid qualifications.	Complete a CSS Profile to be considered for need-based financial aid.	Answer "No" to U.S. citizenship.	Online, enter 000-00-0000. On paper, leave it blank.	No application fee.
Lake Forest College	**Darren Drabek** Director of International Admissions 847-735-6042 drabek@lakeforest.edu **Jonathan Gonzalez** Admissions Counselor 847-735-5008 jgonzalez@lakeforest.edu https://www.lakeforest.edu/live/files/2347-an-undoc-students-guide-to-college---ilpdf	Between $8,000 and $15,000 based on academic performance. **Jerry Cebrzynski** 847-735-5103 (ph) cebrzynski@lakeforest.edu	Complete a CSS Profile and institutional form for need-based aid.	On the Common Application, choose "non-citizen" or "other."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
Lewis University	**Ashley Skidmore** *Dean* (815) 836-5250	Between $5,000 and $12,000 per year based on GPA and standardized test scores.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non-citizen."	Leave it blank.	$40 application fee can be waived.
Lincoln Christian University	**Ryan Harty** *Associate Director of Enrollment* (217) 732-3168	Merit scholarships are awarded to students with a minimum 3.1 GPA and 21 ACT score.	Complete a CSS Profile. Email: finaid@lincolnchristian.edu	Choose "other." Further questions are not required fields, but optional.	Enter 000-00-0000.	None; $40 application fee.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Loyola University Chicago	**Benito Amaral** Admission Counselor bamaral@LUC.edu 773.508.3148; **Joe Serdar** Associate Director International Admissions Jserdar@luc.edu **Bruce Boyer** Co-Chair Dreamer Committee bboyer@luc.edu	Between $13,500 and $18,500. Also, DACA scholarship, which provides DACA recipients with full tuition, room, and board.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non-citizen."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
McKendree University	**Christopher Hall** Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid chall@mckendree.edu	Between $1,000 and $12,000 per year based on GPA and ACT score.	Complete *Institutional Financial Aid Application*.	Choose either "Undocumented student" or leave field blank.	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
Monmouth College	**Brandon Meyer** *Chicago Based Admission Representative* (419) 399-7001 bmeyer@monmouthcollege.edu	All students receive merit scholarships based on high school GPA and ACT score.	Complete *Institutional Financial Aid Application* in lieu of FAFSA.	Application via the Common Application. Select Not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident. Mark the intended Visa question as unknown, and fill out questions as appropriate.	Leave it blank.	No application fee.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Moraine Valley Community College	**Carissa Davis** 708) 974-5343	Scholarships are available in various amounts. High school students who are in the top 10% percent of their graduating class are eligible for the college's Distinguished Scholar Award, which entitles them to free in-district tuition. MSA office will assist in the search for applicable scholarships.	*Complete Institutional Financial Aid Application*.	Complete paper or online application	Complete paper application and leave section (Can't do online application)	No application fee
North Central College	**Martha Stolze** *Director of Admissions* (630) 637-5800 mastolze@noctrl.edu https://www.northcentralcollege.edu/apply/dreamers-and-daca-students	Between $2,000 and $20,000 per year, which is renewable based on academic performance.	*Financial assistance may be provided through private scholarships or private grants. These are in addition to merit scholarships earned through the application process. Complete Institutional Financial Aid Application.*	Application via the Common Application. Select Not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident. Mark the intended Visa question as unknown, and fill out questions as appropriate.	Leave it blank.	No application fee for online applications.
North Park University	**Guadalupe Bautista** Admission Counselor TEL: (773) 244-4848 gbautista@northpark.edu Admissions Toll-Free: (800) 888-6728	Between $6,000 and $10,000 per year based on GPA and standardized test scores.	Complete the *NPU Institutional Form* in lieu of FAFSA.	Choose "Undocumented alien" on the US residency question.	Leave it blank.	Can waive $40 application/ reapplication fee.

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School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Northeastern Illinois University	**Luvia Moreno** Director of Undocumented Student Resources (773) 442-4601 Lu-Moreno@neiu.edu	Presidential Scholarship covers full in-state tuition, fees, and provides a book allowance. Six students are chosen per year based on academic credentials. Separate application online.	None for undocumented students.	Choose option "Requesting consideration under IL Public Act 93-0007" or select "non U.S. citizen."	Online, enter 000-00-0000. On paper, leave it blank.	Application fee waiver from your advisor or counselor should be sent in with application.
Northern Illinois University	**Shevon Porter** *Chicago-Based Admission Counselor* (312) 758-1268 sporter@niu.edu **Alexis Torres** *Bilingual Transfer Counselor* 815-753-0446 atorres8@niu.edu Additional information available through the Latino Resource Center lrc@niu.edu 815-753-1986	None for undocumented students.	None for undocumented students.	Answer: "Are you a U.S. Citizen?" NO "Are you a legal permanent resident?" NO Then, answer questions about HB 60/IL DREAM Act. Students must file an NIU Affidavit (oath made in writing) stating that they meet the above conditions and that they will apply for lawful permanent residency as soon as they are eligible to do so. This affidavit is kept confidential by NIU.	If students answer citizenship questions as explained, then will not be asked for a SSN.	Complete Application Fee Waiver Request form.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Oakton Community College	**Aaron Alaniz** Enrollment Services 847.635.1401 aalaniz@oakton.edu	Undocumented students can apply for three merit-based scholarships: Educational Foundation Scholarships, Academic Merit Scholarship, and Excellence Scholarship.	None for undocumented students.	For the admissions application, choose "Undocumented." For the scholarship application, choose "Other."	Online application requires a SSN. Undocumented students should fill out a paper application.	None for online application; paper application fee is $25.
Rockford University	**Jen Vargaz** *Assistant Director for Admissions* (815) 226-4050 (main) (815) 226-3280 (direct) jvargaz@rockford.edu **Jennifer Nordstrom** Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Admission 815-226-3383 JNordstrom@rockford.edu	Presidential Scholarship awards full tuition to 10 students per year. Trustee Scholarship awards $20,000 to 10 students per year. Dean's Scholarship awards up to $15,000 to 25 students per year. All are very competitive based on academic performance and require students to live on campus for the academic year.	None for undocumented students.	Online application allows blank field.	Enter 000-00-0000. Field cannot be left blank.	No application fee.
Roosevelt University	**Abel Amezcua** Freshman Admission Counselor 312-341-2113 aamezcua@roosevelt.edu	Between $1,000 and $4,000 per year, based on prior academic achievements and talents.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "non-citizen."	Leave it blank.	Submit *Request for Application Fee Waiver* form available from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)	**Jhonathan Vallecilla** Admissions Coordinator 618-536-4405 Jhonvallecas321@siu.edu http://admissions.siu.edu/apply/undocumented.php	Freshman can be awarded $4,000 or more per year for four years based on academic achievements.	None for undocumented students.	Choose box "Requesting consideration under Illinois Public Law 93-0007."	Leave it blank.	$40 but can Submit *Request for Waiver of Enrollment-Application Fee* form.
Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville)	**Todd Burrell** Director of Undergraduate Admissions (618) 650-3705 tburrel@siue.edu http://www.siue.edu/admissions/undocumented/	Scholarship applications are due December 1st. Incoming freshman must have an ACT score of 27 more. Beginning February 2017, SIUE now offers in-state tuition to all undergraduates students	Contact Rosalena Baez Warner for more forms to apply for institutional financial aid.	Select "no" to U.S. citizen question.	Leave it blank.	$40 but can Submit *Request for Waiver of Undergraduate Application Fee* form.
University of Chicago	**Amanda Quiles** Admissions Counselor 773-702-7110 ac2uiles@uchicago.edu	All students automatically considered for merit scholarships; no additional merit application is required. Special scholarships exist: www.collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/costs/scholarships	Complete the *International Student Financial Aid Application*. 773-702-8666	On the Common Application, choose "non-citizen" or leave field blank. Apply via CommonApp or Coalition	Leave it blank.	Students applying for need-based financial aid will not be charged the $75 application fee.

Appendix B: Colleges & Universities in Illinois

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
University of Illinois at Chicago	**Jennifer Juarez** *Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services* *(312) 996-3356* undocs@uic.edu jjuare2@uic.edu	Between $3,000 and $8,000 per year, which is renewable based on academic performance. http://financialaid.uic.edu/scholarships.shtml	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Non-citizen." Will then be asked questions to determine eligibility for HB 60 In-State Tuition. Apply via CommonApp	Leave it blank.	Submit *Fee Waiver Request* form.
University of St. Francis	**Eric Ruiz** *Associate Director of Admission/Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Initiatives* (815) 740-5070	Between $100 and $15,000 per year based on GPA, ACT scores and subject talents.	Contact Eric Ruiz for internal form. Undocumented students eligible for up to $10,950.	No question about citizenship. Answer question about country of birth.	Enter 000-00-0000.	No application fee.
Western Illinois University	**Audrey Barrientos** *Senior Admission Counselor* (708) 948-7497 ar-barrientos@wiu.edu	All students are automatically considered for merit scholarships upon acceptance. Students with a minimum 30 ACT and 3.0 GPA will receive $40,000 over four years to cover full in-state tuition.	For students with at least 20 ACT and 3.0 GPA: submit the *Affidavit of Intent to File and Application to Become a Permanent Resident* form. Aid will cover approx. 25-33% of tuition costs depending on academic profile.	Can apply via CommonApp	Enter 000-00-0000.	$30 but can request fee waiver

Appendix B: Out-of State Colleges & Universities

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Beloit College	**Jessica Rardin** Admission Counselor and Intercultural Coordinator (608)-713-8030 rardinj@beloit.edu	Up to full tuition may be awarded to qualified students with a B+ of better average. Those who have outside scholarships or other resources available to cover room, board, and fees will be given priority consideration.	Print out and complete FAFSA, mail directly to Beloit College Admissions Office. Complete *Beloit College Financial Aid Application*.	Choose "Non-citizen" or "Other."	Leave it blank.	No application fee.
University of Notre Dame	**Alisa Fishere** *Senior Associate Director* alisa.m.fisher.12@nd.edu	Between $10,000 and $25,000 per year. All students are automatically considered for merit-based awards and will be contacted directly more information if they qualify.	Complete CSS Profile and *Institutional Financial Aid Profile*.	Choose "Other."	Leave it blank.	Can request fee waiver.
Marquette University	**Zuleyka Rios** *Admissions Counselor-Multicultural Community Outreach* (414) 288-3585 zuleyka.rios@marquette.edu	Scholarships available through Full-tuition awards, General awards, and the Scholar programs.	Complete Marquette's *Net Price Calculator* for institutional need-based aid. **Susan Teerink** Director of Financial Aid susan.teerink@marquette.edu For assistance in Spanish: **Cheila Gonzalez** cheila.gonzalez@marquette.edu	Choose "Other."	Leave it blank.	Fee can be waived if you know a Marquette alumnus and complete the *Alumni Fee Waiver*, or if you complete the common application which does not require a fee.

Appendix B: Out-of State Colleges & Universities

School	Admissions Contact Person	Merit-based Scholarships	Need-based Financial Aid	Citizenship Question on Application	SSN on Application	Waive Application Fee
Purdue University	(765) 494-1776 (main) **Mike Borosky** (Chicago) *Admissions Counselor* (312) 206-7015 **Mary Ward** (Illinois) *Admissions Counselor* (331) 223-5773	None for undocumented students.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Undocumented." Indicate If you have DACA status.	Leave it blank or enter DACA number.	Can request fee waiver.
Saint Louis University	**Rae-Anne Mena** menar@slu.edu 720-344-4307 **Office of International Services** 314-977-2318	All students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships between $3,000 and $18,000 per year. The Presidential Scholarship and Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships both require separate applications.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Non-resident alien."	Leave it blank.	All online applications are free.
Valparaiso University	**Redrick Taylor** *Admission Counselor* Redrick.Taylor@valpo.edu (219) 548-7752	All students are automatically considered for the Board of Directors, Presidential, and Honors merit-based scholarships.	None for undocumented students.	Choose "Not a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident" and list country of citizenship, visa status, and country of birth.	Leave it blank.	Contact admissions office to request application fee waiver.

Appendix C: Community Organizations in Illinois

Everyone needs a support network. Find out how to connect with other undocumented students who are facing the same challenges as you by contacting one of the organizations listed below according to their geographic region. Each of the organizations listed provides support for immigrants in Illinois.

Chicago – Loop Area

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
www.icirr.org
228 S Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60604

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees and supporting their full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. In partnership with its member organizations, ICIRR educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and, informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
www.ciogc.org
17 N State St, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago is the unifying force that brings together a wonderfully diverse American Muslim community in the greater Chicago region and across Illinois.

Contact: (312) 212-1520

National Immigrant Justice Center
www.immigrantjustice.org
208 S LaSalle St, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60604

Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Contact: (312) 660-1370

Chicago – Northside

AFIRE Chicago
www.afirechicago.org
4300 N California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618

AFIRE believes that strategic alliances and partnerships are vital to serve not only the Filipino immigrant community, but to further the common good. AFIRE frames its advocacy around the tenets of movement building, social justice, and community development. AFIRE's programs address four key social justice areas: health and wellness; migration, immigration, and integration; civic and community engagement; and, human rights and advocacy.

Contact: Call 773-580-1025.

Communities United
www.communitiesunited.org
4749 N Kedzie Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60625

Communities United (formerly known as Albany Park Neighborhood Council) is a grassroots community organization that unites youth and adults from Albany Park and surrounding communities to address issues of social, economic and racial justice.

Since its founding, Communities United has engaged over 10,000 community residents in its organizing efforts to improve the quality of public education, preserve affordable housing, increase access to affordable and quality health care, and promote the rights of the undocumented.

Contact: Fasher Khan at Fash@communitiesunited.org or Luis Sinchi at Luis@communitiesunited.org.

HANA Center
www.hanacenter.org
4300 N California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618
www.hanacenter.org

The mission of the HANA Center is to empower the Korean American community through education, social service, organizing/advocacy and culture. The HANA Center serves the Korean American community of greater Chicago, now estimated to be approximately 100,000 people.

Contact: (773) 583-5501

Latinos Progresando
www.latinospro.org
3047 W Cermak Rd
Chicago, IL 60623

Latinos Progresando serves immigrants with the highest quality, low-cost legal immigration services, community education and engagement, and advocacy/organizing around policy that affects immigrants.

The organization's Associates Board raises funds for and administers the Dr. Angela Perez Miller Scholarship Fund, which was created to promote educational attainment in the Latino and immigrant community through tuition assistance and mentoring.

Contact: Adrienne Lange at adrienne@latinospro.org.

Polish American Association
www.polish.org
3834 N. Cicero Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641

The mission of the Polish American Association, a human service agency, is to serve the diverse needs of the Polish community in the Chicago metro area by providing resources for changing lives, with emphasis on assisting immigrants. Programs offered include education and employment services; social services; immigration services; and, information and advocacy.

Contact: (773) 282-8206

Chicago – Southside & Southwest

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
www.bpncchicago.org
4477 S Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60632

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) is a community based, nonprofit organization serving a working class neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest side.

BPNC's mission is to create a safer community, improve the learning environment at public schools, preserve affordable housing, provide a voice for youth, protect immigrants' rights, promote gender equality, and end of all forms of violence.

Contact: (773) 523-7110

Enlace Chicago
www.enlacechicago.org
2756 S Harding Ave.
Chicago, IL 60623

Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of the Little Village Community by fostering a physically safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

Contact: (773) 542-9233

Southwest Organizing Project
www.swopchicago.org
2558 W 63rd St
Chicago, IL 60629

The Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) recognizes the diversity of its communities and works to build a broad-based organization of churches, mosques, schools and other institutions in the southwest Chicago that will enable families to share common values, determine their own future and connect with each other to improve life in their neighborhoods.

Contact: Call (773) 471-8208

United African Organization
www.uniteafricans.org
4910 S. King Drive, 1st Floor
Chicago, IL 60615

United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

Contact: Email info@uniteafricans.org

Chicago – West Suburbs

Proyecto de Acción de los Suburbios del Oeste (West Suburban Action Project)
www.pasoaction.org
3415 W North Ave., Suite D
Melrose Park, IL 60160

P.A.S.O. is a community-based social justice organization that works to engage community members to act through their faith and values to address issues that affect them, their families, and neighbors with the mission to build stronger communities where all residents can live dignified lives regardless of their race, socioeconomic or immigration status.

Contact: Call (708) 410-2000.

DuPage County

Latin@ Youth Action League
www.loyal-dupage.org

Latin@ Youth Action League (L@YAL) seeks to empower Latino youth to engage in critical thinking and community building by raising awareness and participation in activism through direct action organizing campaigns, mobilization, and advocacy.

Contact: Cynthia Brito at (630) 808-5835 or cbrito13@gmail.com.

Illinois – Other

La Colectiva at University of Illinois
www.facebook.com/LaColectivaUIUC
Champaign-Urbana, IL

La Colectiva is a student organization at the University of Illinois created to address the challenges faced by immigrant communities of Champaign-Urbana. La Colectiva's mission is to advocate for social justice and change on behalf of all immigrants while simultaneously serving the community by fostering leadership and providing resources through grassroots initiatives.

Contact: Email lacolectivarso@gmail.com

Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project
www.ssipchicago.org
101 Royce Road, Suite 8
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

The Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project is a nonprofit organization committed to community organizing for the rights of immigrants in Chicago's southwest suburbs through education, civic engagement, and advocacy.

Contact: Jose Vera at jvera@ssipchicago.org.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Conclusion

We hope this guide offers you valuable advice to help you navigate through the process of researching and applying to colleges and universities in the United States. This guide has been carefully compiled with the help of community groups, educators, undocumented students and their allies. If you have any remaining questions that we have not answered or if there is something additional that you would like us to address, please reach out to us by sending an email to ftsao@icirr.org or calling the ICIRR office at (312) 332-7360.

Special thanks to our authors for their hard work: Razan Abu-Hashish, Cindy Agustin, Fatematuz Chamak, Mia Clark, Nicole Cunha-Gomes, Lili Gecker, Lucia Gonzalez, Alaa Mukahhal, Carla Navoa, Evelyn Osorio, Ireri Unzueta, and Reyna Wences.

Over 100 volunteers, counselors, community leaders, and undocumented youth contributed to the guide. We wish to thank some of our more prolific contributors and careful editors: Dylan Bellisle, Cynthia Brito, Maria Bucio, Dan Burke, Tanya Cabrera, Diana Colin, Rajelin Escondo, Pati Islas, Barbara Karpouzian, Maria Luna-Duarte, Lulu Martinez, Sarah Mesick, Irakere Picon, Fae Rabin, David Ramirez, Jonathan Rodrigues, Nathan Ryan, Arianna Salgado, Yanitza Salgado, Stephen Smith, Brittany Triggs, Fred Tsao, Jose Vera, and Suzanne Zoheri.

Photos by Nathan Ryan of ICIRR and Evelyn Osorio of IYJL.
Cover design and formatting by Nicole Cunha-Gomes.