



# 2025-26 Tip Sheet for Undocumented Students



Undocumented students face unique challenges in their quest to obtain postsecondary education. This tip sheet is designed to help this population with some of the pressing questions they have while contemplating whether they can enroll in school.

Question	Answer
1. I just finished high school and want to go to college. Will the fact that I am an undocumented student prevent me from continuing my education?	Generally, undocumented status will not prevent admission to college or a vocational program, or from enrolling in classes. Being an undocumented student limits the types of financial aid available and could affect how tuition is charged. See Questions 2, 4, 8, and 9.
2. I am an undocumented student, but I have lived in the U.S. since I was three years old. Am I eligible for financial aid to help pay for college?	An undocumented student is not eligible for federal financial aid such as the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Direct Loans. However, there may be financial aid from other sources, including the college you want to attend and private organizations.
3. I was born in the U.S., but my parents are undocumented. How does my parents' status affect my eligibility for federal financial aid?	As a U.S. citizen, you are eligible to receive federal financial aid, regardless of your parents' status. However, their status will prevent them from borrowing a parent PLUS Loan to help pay your college expenses. For more information about how this affects your eligibility for federal student aid, contact the financial aid office at your college.
4. I am an undocumented student, but I have lived in the U.S. since my family came here when I was six. I will graduate from high school soon. If I attend a public college in my state, am I eligible for in-state tuition?	Possibly. Many states have enacted legislation which allows undocumented students who meet certain qualifications to be charged in-state tuition at some or all public postsecondary institutions in the state. This list of states may be viewed at <a href="https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/states/">https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/states/</a> .
5. If I live in a state which allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition, do I have to do anything to be eligible to receive this benefit?	Common criteria for undocumented students to receive in-state tuition in certain states include attending a state high school for two to four years, earning a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) in the state, enrolling in a public postsecondary institution in the state, and filing an affidavit stating intent to legalize status and become a permanent resident. Check with the college you plan to attend about the criteria in your state.
6. As an undocumented student, what type of financial aid is available from the college I plan to attend?	The financial aid available to undocumented students from colleges and other postsecondary schools varies widely among institutions. Financial aid could include institutional scholarships, grants, loans, and work programs. Institutional scholarships often come with a merit component. To find out what is available at the college you plan to attend, contact the financial aid office at that college.

Question	Answer
<p>7. If I have been approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), am I able to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)?</p>	<p>It depends. A noncitizen is unable to complete the FAFSA unless they have a Social Security Number (SSN). DACA allows students to remain in the country; however, it does not make such students eligible for federal student aid (such as the Federal Pell Grant), even if they have an SSN.</p> <p>Some states and colleges use information from the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state or institutional financial aid programs. Contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend to find out what types of aid are available and whether the FAFSA is required to apply.</p>
<p>8. As an undocumented student, I know I am not eligible for financial aid from the federal government. Where can I look to find private scholarships?</p>	<p>Here are some websites to use to research scholarships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast Web: <a href="https://www.fastweb.com">https://www.fastweb.com</a></li> <li>• Get Schooled: <a href="https://getschooled.com/article/1320-scholarships-for-undocumented-daca-mented-students-get-that-money/">https://getschooled.com/article/1320-scholarships-for-undocumented-daca-mented-students-get-that-money/</a></li> <li>• Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund: <a href="https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/">https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/</a></li> <li>• Hispanic Scholarship Fund: <a href="https://www.hsf.net/scholarship-finder">https://www.hsf.net/scholarship-finder</a></li> <li>• Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute: <a href="https://www.chcinextopp.net">https://www.chcinextopp.net</a></li> <li>• La Plaza Scholarship and Financial Aid Guide: <a href="https://www.laplazaindy.org/portfolio-item/scholarship-fund/">https://www.laplazaindy.org/portfolio-item/scholarship-fund/</a></li> </ul>
<p>9. Can I use my scholarship money to pay expenses other than tuition?</p>	<p>Scholarships can be used to pay most educational expenses, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition and fees;</li> <li>• Living expenses (food and housing);</li> <li>• Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment (including the documented rental or purchase of a personal computer);</li> <li>• Transportation;</li> <li>• The cost of a first professional credential for a program requiring a credential for employment; and</li> <li>• Miscellaneous personal expenses.</li> </ul> <p>Check with the organization that awarded scholarship funds about any restrictions.</p>
<p>10. If I discuss my undocumented status with a counselor in the financial aid office at my school, are they required to report me to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)?</p>	<p>No. Financial aid counselors are not required to report undocumented students to ICE or USCIS. However, under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a school or school district may disclose information from a student's education records without consent to specific entities, such as a State education office, or for specific purposes, such as to comply with a subpoena or court order.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>11. I am a U.S. citizen, but my parent is undocumented. Can my FAFSA information be used to identify my or my parent's immigration status?</p>	<p>Information provided on the FAFSA has not historically been used for immigration enforcement. Parent (or spouse) contributors are not asked about immigration status on the FAFSA; although, the FAFSA does request Social Security number information. It is possible that current or future administrations could seek access to this data for such purposes. Currently, there are no known policies or cases in which a parent or contributor has been subject to immigration enforcement as a result of submitting the FAFSA.</p> <p>NASFAA understands feelings of concern or risk regarding data privacy. Please see our resource page, "<a href="#">FAFSA Information for Students from Families of Mixed Immigration Statuses</a>" for additional information.</p>