

Undocumented Students at Joliet Junior College

Undocumented Students :

- Are born abroad and are not U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.
- May not know their status until they begin the college application process.
- Have probably grown up in the United States.
- Are eligible for in-state tuition if they attended an Illinois school for at least three years (K-12) prior to graduating or receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma.
- Don't qualify for state and federal grants or loans, even if their parents pay taxes but may be eligible for merit and need based scholarships.
- Are often ineligible for careers that require licensing, background checks, or a Social Security Number (SSN).

Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA)

- DACA, an executive memo issued June 15, 2012 offers undocumented persons under the age of 31, meeting specific criteria, deferred action of deportation. For more information go to: www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals.
- DACA does not provide an individual with lawful status.
- Through the Department of Homeland Security, DACA recipients are granted the right to an Illinois driver's license, a Social Security Number and a work permit.
- DACA students are eligible for paid internships and student employment.

Illinois Dream Act:
State Bill 2185

Effective 2011

A call to develop a Dream Fund Commission for the following purpose:

- Fundraise and establish the Illinois Dream Fund,
- Publicize scholarship and develop application process,
- Develop training for high school counselors and college personnel, and
- Amend Section 529 Prepaid Savings Plan in Illinois.

For more information regarding the Illinois Dream Fund go to:

www.illinoisdreamfund.org/

Talking to Undocumented Students About Sensitive Subjects

What NOT to Say	What to Say
Going to college isn't really an option for you.	Going to college is going to be difficult for you, but it is possible. Thousands of other talented, hard-working undocumented students have already graduated from college.
You're not going to be able to get any money for college.	You're not eligible for most forms of government financial aid. However, you might be eligible for in-state tuition, and there are some private scholarships you can apply for.
Why don't you just legalize?	Have you talked to an immigration attorney to find out if you can legalize? There may be immigration remedies that you and your family don't know about already.
Even if you get a college degree, you're never going to be able to work legally.	Getting a college degree isn't going to change your immigration status, but it will open up many opportunities for you once you're able to legalize. The DREAM Act is a proposed federal bill that will give many undocumented students a path towards citizenship if they graduate from high school and go on to college. Because of strong bipartisan support in Congress and support from President Obama, the DREAM Act is very likely to pass in the near future.
Why don't you go back home and get a degree?	If you have family and connections in another country outside the United States, it might make sense for you to consider pursuing educational opportunities elsewhere. Remember, however, that you would be separated from your family in the U.S., and you could be barred from returning for 10 years.
In order to apply to college, you're going to have to reveal everything.	In order to apply to college, you're going to have to be honest about your immigration status. At first this may seem scary to you and your family. Remember that federal law (specifically FERPA) will protect your privacy and prevent colleges from releasing your information unless under court order.