

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Admissions

#### **Will colleges decline a student admission based on immigration status?**

No, colleges will not decline an application based on immigration status. However, some private schools will consider these applicants as international students.

#### **Should a student write about his/her immigration status in the college essay?**

There is no clear answer to this question. It is a decision the student needs to make on his/her own while weighing all pros and cons.

#### **Are some schools friendlier to immigrant students than others?**

Actually, with DACA, you could apply for a Work Authorization Number which allows you the opportunity to be employed legally in the U.S. More importantly, you want to prepare yourself for when the DREAM Act passes. No one can ever take your education away. No one can take away your self-empowerment.

#### **Should a student select “international student” when he/she applies?**

For all Texas public schools on Apply Texas students should NOT apply as international students; they should apply as ‘US Freshman’. However, when applying to private schools students should contact the institution to determine if they should apply as international or domestic incoming freshmen.

#### **Why do students have to send everything through mail?**

Students need to send the Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident and the TASFA in the mail because colleges don’t currently have an online system to track these items.

### Financial Aid

#### **How much money is a student eligible for?**

Undocumented students are eligible for grant funding from the State, and certain private loans. Refer to [www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.com) to identify the grants students qualify for.

#### **Where should students mail the TASFA?**

DO NOT MAIL THE TASFA TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. Students should send a copy of the paper TASFA to the Financial Aid department at each school they are applying to.

#### **Why does a student have to fill out the FAFSA if they are not eligible for federal funds?**

Some schools prefer the paper FAFSA. Please refer to the school list on the back of the TASFA to find out if the student’s school of choice uses the TASFA.

**What if the student's parents do not file taxes or are unwilling to do so?**

Students whose families do not file an income tax return must contact each college or university for their non-tax filer form. This will likely flag their financial aid application for additional review. Encourage students to check their email and each school's financial aid portal frequently to respond as soon as possible to any messages requiring additional information.

**Can undocumented students participate in Work Study?**

Undocumented students are not eligible for federal funding and therefore are ineligible for Federal Work Study. However, if a student has received a Work Authorization Card through DACA, they may be eligible to work at their school through State Work Study or Institutional Work Study programs. Students should consult with their college/university to see if they hire students on campus outside of the Federal Work Study Program.

**If a student was approved for DACA, are they now eligible for federal funds?**

No, DACA does not change a student's eligibility for federal aid. However, students are still eligible for State Financial Aid.

**If a student goes to college out of state, will they be eligible for financial aid?**

Students may be eligible for institutional aid, but not for federal aid.

**When should students turn in their financial aid application?**

State financial aid funding is limited. Students should submit their application as soon as possible after January 1st.

**What if the student has not lived in Texas for three years, can they still get in-state tuition?**

Some students who have only been in Texas for one year may still be eligible for in-state tuition. Check with the college/university to see if the student meets any of the additional requirements based on the student's visa status. If they don't, they will not be eligible for State financial aid; however, they could still be eligible for institutional aid. If the student has a strong high school record, you should encourage them to apply to competitive colleges and universities that provide aid for immigrant students. Lastly, you can also refer to the list of scholarships available to undocumented students as a source for additional aid.

**What is an ITIN?**

ITIN stands for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. This number allows individuals to comply with US tax laws.

**What is a tax transcript?**

A tax transcript serves as a receipt from the federal government; it is provided as proof that the government received an individual's tax information.